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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1858.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1858.

LITERATURE

The Life and Remains of Douglas Jerrold. By his Son, Blanchard Jerrold. (Kent & Co.) A summer only has bloomed and gone since the dust of Douglas Jerrold was left on the sunny Norwood slope. All that had been mortal of their dead friend was then borne to the just man's rest in the arms of some of the great writers of our generation, and through such throngs of mourners as rarely gather round a new-made grave. Old men, worn with life and white with age and thought, were there. Young men, flushed with nerve and strength, Young men, nusned with nerve and strength, were there. Statesmen and historians, poets and novelists, and poor players,—grandsires with tiny children, and fresh young girls and comely matrons,—lined reverentially the long pathway of the hill. A scene never to fade from the memories of those who saw it! A June sun poured on the ground its own serene and solemn joy. The first roses of the year were opening to the south. A brightness, as of new life, shimmered in the leaves and along the soft billowy wave of green. A sky of in-tensely tender blue hung overhead. Low down, miles off in the golden haze, behind the sad band of mourners, gloomed vaguely the towers and domes of the great city. In their front, resting on the crown of another hill, sprang that shining and etherial structure, on which the dead genius had been first to fix the name of Crystal Palace,—and in which, as he favourite and wearied child, a song of redemption and eternal life pealed from such a choir as, until that hour, had never been heard in England. The roll of their Hallelujah was unheard by the outer ears of those who stood on the contrasting hill; but the mourners heard it with their hearts, and felt it still the dull aching pulse of pain, though to the grosser sense inaudible as if it had been chorussed in

And now his Life is before us. Contemporary biography is a thing hard to achieve in all cases; most of all hard when an affectionate man has to write of one whose name he bears. Criticism is then out of court. Impartiality is scarcely to be desired, and coldness would be almost a crime. Living men, too, must be introduced into the text; and to blend the touch of history with the politeness of drawing-rooms is never easy. The pen becomes a knife in the artist's hand, everywhere moving through hot blood and quivering nerves. Praise may be thrown back as impertinence, blame will be revenged as an insult. Yet books written under such difficulties may have a great and abiding value. Their merits may balance the necessary defects. The writer assuredly knows more, even if he be free to say less. He can tell us of many things unknown to the searchers of documents, -for he has lived with his hero, seen him in undress, when no strain of conciliation or concealment was on the mind; and if respect and affection seal his lips on this oversight or that defect, they will also open his lips on points of very precious and peculiar interest. If such a writer cannot tell us, like a judge, all that the here was not, he can at least tell us what he was. Then, again, such volumes bear in every statement an emphasis of authority to which no work from a stranger's hand, however skilful and conscientious he who guides the hand may be, can ever hope to rise. This Biography of Douglas Jerrold, by his son, written while the mirth and the tears are yet warm, may be taken as a good example of its class. It is a very the Basque Roads:—

admirable portrait of a father. We hear the wit crackle in the smoking-room of the club, and join in the irresistible applause of answering laughter,—we imagine the powerful journalist at his desk, the jar of roses at his hand, his dog Mouse scowling on the rug, a printer's devil in the passage, and a heap of papers' on the floor,—we sit, as it were, with our feet under the same mahogany, and in the pauses of merriment list to his sweet low musical chart.

And for this reason, And for a season, Let us be merry before we go!

But we turn from these figures of the busy and companionable man of genius to the picture of his family life. Here we have Jerrold at home, and a more beautiful and winning portrait of a man of letters does not, we think, exist.

We shall not ask the reader to go with us again from cradle to grave; we prefer to pause on points of character and illustrative sayings, not yet known to the general public.

Douglas Jerrold, we read, was the "son of a poor stroller".—rather, we should say, of a poor country manager. A mystery is, however, suggested about his birth, or the antecedents of his birth, on which a romance might be built: — "The poor stroller must have remembered somewhat bitterly the fact, to which he often referred, namely, that he had played in a barn upon the estate that was rightfully his own." Manager Jerrold's scenes ran over a great part of the downs and hopgardens of Kent, though his great station was Sheerness,—one of the few sea-ports that now have not even a barn devoted to the drama of 'Black-Eyed Susan' and 'The Wreck Ashore.' An anecdote on the state of theatrical affairs in a place at that day still more primitive than Sheerness:—

"More than half a century after the poor stroller, Samuel Jerrold, had displayed his precious shoes to the bumpkins about Eastbourne, his son Douglas, accompanied by his family, went to this quiet place to enjoy a summer's holiday. Here a poor stroller waited upon the son, and asked him to give his patronage to the little theatre. Douglas Jerrold's 'bespeak' was put forth in this same Eastbourne, in 1851; and the patron went to the barn with his family, and was posted in the seat of honour—the honour being marked by a little red cloth thrown over the front bench. Rafters, dark and ghostly, overhead; rows of greasy benches behind; and a woeful stage, with dips for footlights, were not encouraging hints as to the nature of the entertainment. Presently a boy in a smock frock snuffed the dips, and then 'The Love Chase' was played. The manager's family took nearly all the parts; even the poor old chief of the troupe, blind and worn, was led on to sing 'Come and take tea in the arbour.' In 1851 the patron of the evening must have thought, 'Matters theatrical here are rude enough. What must the theatre have been in which Dibdin, and my father, and Wilkinson, performed hereabouts some sixty years ago!"

At the barn in Sheerness good company sometimes appeared. Among persons of high distinction was Lord Cochrane (some part of whose Memoirs it is our fortune to receive as we write these lines). When his ship, the Pallas, lay in Sheerness roadstead, Lord Cochrane, now Earl of Dundonald, was always at the play; and he isstill remembered by the old doorkeeper, not less from his great renown as a seaman, than by his original and good-hearted whimsy of always paying for his box twice. In the little Douglas, then a flaxen Saxon boy of three or four, Lord Dundonald was to find in after life one of the staunchest of his friends and defenders. Among the very few letters preserved by Jerrold was this from the hero of the Basque Roads:—

"Sir,—Your generous and very powerful advocacy of my claim to the investigation of my case has contributed to promote that act of justice, and produced a decision of the Cabinet Council, after due deliberation, to recommend to Her Majesty my immediate restoration to the Order of the Bath, in which recommendation Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to acquiesce. I would personally have waited on you, confidentially to communicate this (not yet promulgated) decree; but as there is so little chance of finding you, and I am pressingly occupied, I shall postpone that pleasure and duty. —I am, Sir, your obliged and obedient servant, "Douglas Jerrold, Eaq." "Dundonald."

A school at Sheerness taught the youthful dramatist very little; the master, if shrewd in business, being very ignorant in the humanities. "He taught us to turn our oughts into nines," said a prosperous townsman, once a pupil in the same school with Jerrold. This was nearly all. Little Jerrold took home only his prize ringworm. Nor was he given, while at Sheerness, to the riotous games and pastimes in which boys delight, no cudgels, hockey, trap, or cricket. For all these his tender build disarmed him. "The only athletic sport I ever mastered," he used to say, with a twinkling eye, "was backgammon." Sheerness was not then a brilliant place; and we could hug that dear old gentleman, still alive, who clings to the belief, defying parish register and baptismal records, that Douglas Jerrold was born in Sheerness, and was "the only good thing the dirty old town ever sent into the world." From this place he passed into His Majesty's service, as midshipman. Here occurs an anecdote of the young midshipman, which has not, as we think, been told before:—

"He had gone ashore with Capt. Hutchinson, and was left in command of the gig. While the commander was absent two of the men in the midshipman's charge requested permission to make some trifling purchase. The good-natured officer assented, adding—'By the way, you may as well buy me some apples and a few pears."—'All right, sir,' said the men; and they departed. The captain presently returned, and still the seamen were away on their errand. They were searched for, but they could not be found. They had deserted. Any naval reader whose eye may wander over this page will readily imagine the disgrace into which Midshipman Douglas Jerrold fell with his captain. Upon the young delinquent the event made a lasting impression, and years afterwards he talked about it with that curious excitement which lit up his face when he spoke of anything he had felt. He remembered even the features of the two deserters; as he had, most unexpectedly, an opportunity of proving. The midshipman had long put his dirk aside, and washed the salt from his brave face. He had become a fighter with a keener weapon than his dirk had ever proved, when, one day strolling eastward, possibly from the office of his own newspaper to the printing premises of Messrs. Bradbury & Evans, in Whitefriars, he was suddenly struck with the form and face of a baker, who, with his load of bread at his back, was examining some object in the window of the surgical instrument maker, who puzzles so many inquisitive passers-by, near the entrance to King's College. There was no mistake. Even the flour dredge could not hide the fact. The ex-midshipman walked nimbly to the baker's side, and rapping him sharply upon the back, said—'I say, my friend, don't you think you've been rather a long time about that fruit?' The deserter's jaw fell. Thirty years had not calmed the unquiet suggestions of his conscience. He remembered the fruit and the little middy, for he said—'Lor! is that you, sir'? The midshipman went on his way laughing."

How Jerrold first met Clarkson Stanfield on board His Majesty's ship Namur,—how they got up private plays on board,—and how the remembrance of these early days gave rise to the famous private theatricals in which all London assisted,—has been told. With the peace Jerrold left the sea, though it may be truly said the sea never left him:—

"He never ceased to be, at heart, a sailor. He loved the sea, was proud of British oak. Its dashing, careless, hearty phases were suited to his nature. He often said that had the war lasted, and had his strength held out, he would have been somebody in His Majesty's service. And you could not please him more thoroughly at the seaside than hy proposing a day in a cutter. His way would by proposing a day in a cutter. His eye would light up, and he would hasten to the shore to talk the matter over with the sailors himself. They the matter over with the sailors himself. They drove a good bargain with him, for he could never haggle over shillings, and they liked his frank, familiar manner. It was delightful to see his little figure planted in the stern-sheets, his face radiant, his hair flowing in the wind; mouth and nostrilis drawing in, with huge content, the saline breeze. The energy with which his glass was raised when a sail appeared; the delight he expressed when the sailors confirmed his description of the craft; the keen attention he gave to any stories of wrecks or storms told by the crew—all these signs of enjoyment recalled the midshipman. Nor had he forgotten how to manage a boat. On a certain occasion he was sailing in a frail cutter, from Sark to on he was sailing in a frail cutter, from Sark to Guernsey, when the wind freshened, and the sea became lively, and the boat was in dangerous currents. The men were not sufficient for the occasion.

The boat shipped water; my mother and Mrs.

Henry Mayhew, who were of the party, clung to
their male companions in terror. The midshipman
of the Ernest saw that the boat was being mismanaged, and that at any moment she might be
swamped. He calmly seized the helm, bawled out
his orders, stood up in the stern-sheets firm as any
old helmsman, his little forces looking weadprougly. als orders, stood up in the stern-sheets him as any old helmsman, his little figure looking wondrously feeble and fragile amid the boiling waters, and in a few minutes the craft bounded over the waves, behaving herself with all the propriety of the best-regulated ship."

Yet Jerrold would not have sent his own son to sea, nor would he hear with any hearty pleasure of the son of a friend going into that service. A gentleman called on him one day, with a fine youth sick for the brine and bent on a gazette youth sick for the brine and bent on a gazette all to himself. "And what are you at now, my dear boy?" asked Jerrold. "Silk, Sir," says the hopeful Nelson. "If you go to sea you'll find it worsted." A natural weakness of body -that ebbed almost daily into real debility, as it flowed back daily into a sudden and surprising semblance of strength-disposed him to shun for himself, and fear for those he liked, the chances of violent fatigue and dangerous adventures, though no man could admire with warmer zest the tale of brave actions bravely told. All his faculties swayed, as it were, between poles which seemed to have no visible connexion. A man to outward seeming full of whimsical oppositions! He delighted in exercise, yet he could scarcely ride or walk. Bold as a lion, he was also nervous as a bird. In a boat he was a rock, on the edge of a cliff a leaf. boat he was a rock, on the edge of a characteristic standing in the stern-sheets in a storm he looked the image of a hero,—standing on the Luk Column he turned nale and sick. Though twisted with pain, he was ever the liveliest rattle in the company. Heart-disease, sciatica, rheumatism in the eyes, never left him safe an instant. For many years his life was spent on a gravestone, looking into the deep hole, yet no one's spirits flowed with more abounding plentifulness than his. With a singular quickplentifulness than his. With a singular quick-ness for music, he could never dance a step. Without voice, his singing was a delight which no ear that ever heard it will forget. His great accomplishment was, however, whistling. A love of country life—its sights, and sounds, and scents, to all of which he was sensitive to the very verge of pain-gave him, first a familiarity, then a command, over all the notes of birds; and he would bring about him in his

suburban garden troops of thrushes, robins, blackbirds, sparrows, which seemed to know him by a natural instinct as a true friend and leal protector. Born under Bow bells, he used to mock at cockneys born and reared in the country for their ignorance of the voices and ways of birds. If you heard in the lanes about Putney Common, or later in the meadows near West End, a whistle of peculiar strength and sweetness, you felt sure that Jerrold would turn up at the next stile or the first bend of the road. Sometimes, when kept waiting, his pipe tuned up in a drawing-room, to the astonishment, no doubt, of Jeames, but the great amusement of Jeames's mistress. "Couldn't you whistle that again?" pleaded Mary Wol-stonecraft coaxingly to her youthful visitor, after stealing on a prelude of the kind. Coaxing was, in fact, the relation that every

one instinctively took towards the fragile and gentle being,-for, however bright and leonine, you always thought of him as of something feeble and young. This gentleness was, in truth, the one thing by which all his closest friends knew him. We will cite Mr. Charles Dickens as an

incidental witness: 'Few of his friends,' Mr. Dickens writes, 'I think, can have more favourable opportunities of knowing him in his gentlest and most affectionate aspect than I have had. He was one of the gentlest and most affectionate of men. I remember very and most affectionate or men. I remain well that when I first saw him, in about the year 1835, when I went into his sick-room in Th Grove, Brompton, and found him propped up in a great chair, bright-eyed, and quick, and eager in spirit, but very lame in body, he gave me an imspirit, but very lame in body, he gave me an impression of tenderness. It never became dissociated from him. There was nothing cynical or sour in his heart, as I knew it. In the company of children and young people he was particularly happy, and showed to extraordinary advantage. He never was so gay, so sweet tempered, so pleasing, and so pleased as then. Among my own children I have observed this many and many a time. When they and I came home from Italy, in 1845, your father went to Brussels to meet us, in company with our friends. Mr. Forster and Mr. in company with our friends, Mr. Forster and Mr. Maclise. We all travelled together about Belgium for a little while, and all came home together. He was the delicht of the children all the time, and they were his delight. He was in his most brilliant spirits, and I doubt if he were ever more humorous in his life. But the most enduring impression that he left upon us, who are grown up—and we have all often spoken of it since—was, that Jerrold, in his amiable capacity of being easily pleased, in his freshness, in his good nature, in his cordiality, and in the unrestrained openness of his heart, had quite captivated us. Of his generosity I had a proof within these two or three years, which it saddens me to think of now. There had been an estrangement between us—not on any personal subject, and not involving an angry word—and a good many months had passed without my even seeing him in the street, when it fell out that we dined each with his own separate party, in the STRANGER'S ROOM of a club. Our chairs were almost back to back, and I took mine after he was seated and at back, and I took hime after he was seated and at dinner. I said not a word (I am sorry to remember), and did not look that way. Before we had sat so long, he openly wheeled his chair round, stretched out both his hands in a most engaging manner, and said aloud, with a bright and loving face that I can see as I write to you, 'For God's sake, let us be friends again! A life's not long enough for this.'"

-Yet this man was called bitter, acrid, sour, and we know not what. From another letter written by the Author of 'Pickwick' to the Chronicler of 'Cloverhook,' of an earlier date than the one just given, we quote a warm and

serious in it'), and ran over here for a week's rest I cannot tell you how much true gratification I have had in your most hearty letter. F. told me that the same spirit breathed through a notice of that the same spirit breathed through a notice of 'Dombey' in your paper; and I have been saying since to K. and G., that there is no such good way of testing the worth of a literary friendship as by comparing its influence on one's mind with any that literary animosity can produce. Mr. W. will throw me into a violent fit of anger for the moment, it is true; but his acts and deeds pass into the death of all bad things next day, and rot out of my remover, whereas a generous surpostly, like your memory; whereas a generous sympathy, like yours, is ever present to me, ever fresh and new to me—always stimulating, cheerful, and delightful. The pain of unjust malice is lost in an hour.

pain of unjust malice is lost in an hour. The pleasure of a generous friendship is the steadiest joy in the world. What a glorious and comfortable thing that is to think of!"

Then, to continue the chapter of apparently fanciful contradictions in this strangely-gifted being, he who could hardly walk a mile, and had always shrunk from mounting a horse, was in imagination a great traveller. No man ever laid down so many plans that came to naught. At the winter fire, or under the mulberry-tree, as he listened to friends who wander to and fro on the face of this earth, on the glow, the change, the intoxication of brain produced by new sceneries and manners, he would start into fiery ardour. Rome, Constantinople, Seville, Lisbon—yes, he would go! But when the time came round to start, his feeble health prostrated a brave desire. Paris and the Rhine were, until 1854, the only journeys he ever made. In that year he meant to run down on Venice and spend some weeks on the Italian lakes. But the Austrian Kaiser forbad. "We have orders not to admit you into any part of the Austrian Empire," said a polite official, when he applied for a passport. "That shows your he applied for a passport. "That shows your weakness, not my strength," said the applicant. He went, with his wife and with Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, through Burgundy to Lyons, up the Rhone into Savoy and Switzerland, and through the German Rhineland back to Brussels and London. This trip had a considerable influence on his mind and health. Unhappily, the great writer was a bad correspondent, and the letters sent home were brief and unimportant. From letters written to a little boy, who was son to two of the travellers and godson to the other two-extracts from which are here given-the course of the dramatist and his companions may be traced. We give two or three bits about "Godpapa," having in them that grain of character which comes of intimate commu-

"My Dear Willie,-After four hot days in Paris we are cooling in the prettiest sort of country-house on the edge of the great forest of Fontainebleau, into which we drive and ramble, losing ourselves in its magnificent avenues of chestnuts and poplars. * Godpapa has a great love for trees, and woods, and gardens; indeed, we cann't tell if he loves even books better than flowers, of which he knows all the names, English and Latin, and all the verses that have ever been written about them: so we pass under the lacing branches, and chat, and smoke, and laugh."

"Darling Willie,—What a ride and a sail, and how tired we are! Godpapa done up and gone to bed, although we have tumblers with a band under Mamma laid down quite shaken. the window! When we left Fontainebleau the heat was like furnace heat, and the train was stifling, the wasps irritating, and the people dismal about cholers; but what glorious sweeps of vineyards, and what manly paragraph:—
"This day week I finished my little Christmas book (writing towards the close the exact words of a passage in your affectionate letter, received this morning; to wit, 'After all, life has something

Nuits, St.-Julien. 'There,' he cried 'is Tonnerre! Mutts, St.-Junen. Incre, he cried is ionnerre: My God, what a landscape! Let us stay here for a day or two. Give me the 'Murray'—let me see, Tonnerre—ha!—dull town—steep slope—Marguerite of Burgundy—desolated by cholera in 32—that will do.' And on we slid, past Dijon, Chalons, Macon, tasting the wines, and munching grapes, and sometimes tarts with live wasps in them; and so in the late hours to Lyon, tired to death, to face the long delay at the station, the death, to face the long delay at the station, the hauling over of luggage, and the impatience of the ladies, who don't like their gear to be thumbed, and poked, and administered. 'Anything to declare?' asks a pompous gentleman, all button and tobacco.—'Yes,' says Godpapa, who will have his bit of fun; 'a live elephant—take care!' Riding into Lyon on a sultry night is like wriggling into a mouldy melon, stuffed with strong onions and cheese; and we looked at each other's turnedup noses, and thought of the fresh lakes and breezy Alps. 'Could you send and take places for us in to-morrow's diligence for Geneva?' says Godpapa to Mr. Glover, landlord of the Hôtel de l'Univers, where we tumbled in at midnight. - 'All the places taken for three days,' tartly answered Glover.—'Any other conveyance!'—'Only the river.'—'Phône to Aix in river. — Only! What river? — Rhône to Aix in Savoy—there catch Chambery diligence to Geneva.' So we dropped into bed half-dressed—dosed an hour—and off again (after paying such a bill!)—manma very tired, and chill in the dull morning air—and at four o'clock flung off the Rhône bank, and, with our faces to the Alps and the rising sun, dodged, swung, and leaped against the rapid current, between heights crowned, like the Rhine, with ruined convents and castles, and through broad reaches and past picturesque old towns—a long, sweet, and merry day. (P.S. Mr. Punch will certainly hear of Mr. Glover's merits.) At will certainly hear of Mr. Glover's merits.) At sundown we entered Lago Borghetto, and arrived at Aix by dusk, to find the little town crammed, the best hotel full, the street hot with sulphur, and noisy with soldiers, boatmen, ostlers, guides, and visitors—most of these last Italians flying from their own places in fear. At last we got into an hotel—very bad and dirty—both the ladies knocked up."

How Jerrold gets the tourists out of these quarters way he told in the words addressed.

quarters may be told in the words addressed to the same young gentleman of six:

" * * Sick with sulphur, lungs full of steam poisoned with sour food, we escaped from Aix this morning by a nice little trick. Our landlord, unable to eatch four live English every day, and finding our society pleasant and profitable, as he could charge us for dinners we never touched, told us charge us for dinners we hever touched, told us overnight there were no places to be got for a week in the Chambery diligence, nor a single horse to be hired for posting. So Godpapa goes down before breakfast, makes a-long face, and whispers to him that he fears one of the ladies is seized with cholera! The honest landlord suddenly recollects that hors and a very nice carriage may be got, and cheap too! Done, done! As we step in, a funeral pro-cession, with priests, and singing boys, and candles, drones past the door, and we drive away in a light shower, out of the deep sulphurous valley, now to emerge into winding roads, with Italian cottages and real Italian vines, trained up the side of houses, and up branches of apple-trees. Very merrily we ride, Godpapa crowing and singing, and marking down every pretty spot to come to again, and spend a summer in it. He has laid out thirty or forty summers already, so you see he means to live for ever, as we all hope he may."

This passion of building nests for the sum-

mer time of future years never left him. At a later part of this little tour we read—"(P.S. By this time Godpapa has a list of a hundred places to spend his future summers in! Hurrah!)."
How elastic he could become in air and sunshine, and with how much of laughing patience he confronted the pains of travel, pains very great to his morbidly susceptible frame, we show by a last citation from these letters:—

"What a lovely drive over the mountains! what a road full of pictures! You should have seen us a road full of pictures! You should have seen us gay young fellows trudging on before the carriage, dropping stones over the great bridge at La Caille,

jabbering with the peasants on the road, clambering over rocks to catch glimpees of famous cascades, or listening to the sweet pine music in the lonely evening places. In one village we left the ladies, resting the tired horses, and pushed a mile or two ahead, and had stopped to see the sun set over a high hill, when a two of vill carrie we rewrite and showly when a troop of girls came up, crowing and shout-ing, with pumpkins on their heads, large enough for Cinderella's coach-and-six to crack out of lithe, graceful girls; but we could not tell a word they said, though they looked as if they thought we had sprung out of the ground; and they passed on laughing until they met the ladies, when we could hear them set up a great shout. About twelve at night we rattled into Geneva, to find every house chock full. 'If Monsieur will sleep in his facre, perhaps we can find a bed for him to-morrow or next day,' says the landlord of Des Bergues to Godpa. We drive to the Ecu, Cou-Bergues to Godpa. We drive to the Ecu, Couronne, Angleterre, Balance. All oosing with life. Not a coal cellar for coin or love. Naples, Geneva, Rome, Turin—all seem now at Geneva—princes, dancers, painters, conspirators, all flying from cholera. At last we hear of rooms; we drive to them, and find under the town gate an ancient, dirty, and dismal Swiss inn, the landlady of which is rushing about, pulling people out of bed to make way for us—for the English lords and ladies! Two rooms cleared, and clean linen brought, together with brandy and water. As we drink and laugh, Godpa spies a door in the room not before noticed, and, trying it, opens on a monk in bed! 'Ho! ho! Cannot this door be locked?'—'No,' says the landlady, 'else how will the poor padre come out?' He had actually no way in or out except through our bed-room! A row, an expostulation, a threat of leaving, and the wretch was dug out of his sleep, bundled off, his room hired for peace's sake, and we fell to rest. In Switzerland the innkeepers are mostly magistrates, and the Church has no chance with Boniface when milord objects to the nuisance."

Pass we now to the illustrations drawn from London life. - Jerrold's fame in the conversational world of London sprang, no doubt, from the reported flash and picturesqueness of his table-talk. This was a part of his reputation in which he took no pride the reverse rather, for he valued very slightly perhaps undervalued—the worth of quips and quirks, and all that play of humorous fancy which seems to have no end, save laughter; but it was portion of him, as writer and as man, and cannot be divided from his name now that he is gone. From the chapter on Clubs we shall detach some sayings-fragments of tabletalk—gathered up and recorded by those who had heard them, when the ready lips had closed

"A dinner is discussed. Douglas Jerrold listens quietly, possibly tired of dinners and declining pressing invitations to be present. In a few minutes will chime in, 'If an earthquake were to engulf England to-morrow, the English would manage to meet and dine somewhere among the rubbish, just to celebrate the event.' A friend drops in, and walks across the smoking-room to Douglas Jerrold's chair. The friend wants to enlist Mr. Jerrold's sympathies in behalf of a mutual acquaintance who is in want of a round sum of money. But this mutual friend has already sent his hat about among mutual riend has already sent his has account and his literary brethren on more than one occasion.

Mr. —'s hat is becoming an institution, and friends were grieved at the indelicacy of the proceeding. On the occasion to which I now refer, the bearer of the hat was received by my father with evident dissatisfaction. 'Well,' said Douglas Jerrold, 'how much does - want this tim Jerroid, 'how much does — want this time?'
'Why, just a four and two noughts will, I think,
put him straight,' the bearer of the hat replied.—
Jerroid. 'Well, put me down for one of the
noughts.' An old gentleman, whom I will call
Prosy Very, was in the habit of meeting my father,
and pouring long pointless stories into his impatient ears. On one occasion Prosy related a long limp account of a stupid practical joke, concluding with the information that the effect of the joke was so potent, 'he really thought he should have died men,' was the reply; 'you're sure to overtake them.'

with laughter.'—Jerrold. 'I wish to heaven you had.' The 'Chain of Events,' playing at the Lyceum Theatre, is mentioned. 'Humph'! says Douglas Jerrold, 'I'm afraid the manager will find Douglas Jerroid, 'I'm atraid the manager will find it a door-chain strong enough to keep everybody out of his house.' Then some somewhat lack-adaisical young members drop in. They opine that the club is not sufficiently west; they hint at something near Pall Mall, and a little more style. Douglas Jerroid rebukes them. 'No, no, gentlemen; not near Pall Mall; we might catch coronets.' Another of these young gentlemen, who men; not near Pall Mall; we might catch coronets.' Another of these young gentlemen, who
has recently emerged from the humblest fortune
and position, and exulting in the social consideration of his new elevation, puts aside his antecedents. Having met Douglas Jerrold in the morning
while on horseback, he estentatiously says to him,
'Well, you see I'm all right at last': 'Yes,' is the
reply, 'I see you now ride upon your cat's meat.'
The conversation turns upon the fasticiousness of
the times. 'Why,' says a member. 'thev'll soon The conversation turns upon the fastidiousness of the times. 'Why,' says a member, 'they'll soon say marriage is improper. 'No, no,' replies Douglas Jerrold, 'they'll always consider marriage good breeding.' A stormy discussion ensues, during breeding. A stormy discussion ensues, unning which a gentleman rises to settle the matter in dispute. Waving his hands majestically over the excited disputants, he begins: 'Gentlemen, all I want is common sense —' 'Exactly,' Douglas want is common sense —, 'Exactly,' Douglas Jerrold interrupts; 'that is precisely what you do want.' The discussion is lost in a burst of laughter. overroid interrupts; 'that is precisely what you do want.' The discussion is lost in a burst of laughter. The talk lightly passes to the writings of a certain Scot. A member holds that the Scot's name should be handed down to a grateful posterity. D. J.: 'I quite agree with you that he should have an itch in the Temple of Fame.' Brown drops in. Brown is said by all his friends to be the toady of Jones. The appearance of Jones in a room is the proof that Brown is in the passage. When Jones has the influenza, Brown dutifully catches a cold in the head. D. J. to Brown; 'Have you heard the rumour that's flying about town?' 'No.' 'Well, they say Jones pays the dog-tax for you.' Douglas Jerroid is seriously disappointed with a certain book written by one of his friends, and has expressed his disappointment.

—Friend. 'I hear you said — was the worst book I ever wrote.' —Jerroid. 'No, I didn't. I said it was the worst book anybody ever wrote.' book I ever wrote. — errota. No, I mant. I said it was the worst book anybody ever wrote. A supper of sheep's heads is proposed, and presently served. One gentleman present is particularly enthusiastic on the excellence of the dish. and, as he throws down his knife and fork, ex-claims, 'Well, sheep's heads for ever, say I'!— Jerrold. 'There's egotism'!"

We are tempted to extract a paragraph more of these conversations:

"A dinner was given to Mr. Leigh Hunt at the Museum Club. The task of proposing the guest devolved upon Douglas Jerrold. He spoke fervently, and wound up by saying of the veteran essayist, poet, and Liberal politician, that 'even in his hottest warfare his natural sense of beauty and gentleness was so great that, like David of old, he armed his sling with shining pebbles of the brook, and never pelted even his fiercest enemy with mud.' To which Mr. Hunt replied that, 'if his friend Jerrold had the sting of the bee, he had also his honey.' The Museum Club did not catch corohis honey.' The Museum Club did not catch coronets, but discordant elements found their way nets, but discordant elements found their way into its snug rooms, and the gallant company were custed. Then succeeded the Hooks and Eyes; then Our Club, a social weekly gathering, which Douglas Jerrold attended only three weeks before his death. Hence some of his best sayings went that the world. Here were resolvent of the state of the world. forth to the world. Here, when some member, hearing an air mentioned, exclaimed, 'That always carries me away when I hear it.' 'Can nobody whistle it?' asked Douglas Jerrold. 'My father whistle it? asked Douglas Jerroid. My lather ordered a bottle of old port, not elder port, he said. Asking about the talent of a young painter, his companion declared that the youth was mediocre. 'Oh'! was the reply; 'the very worst ochre an artist can set to work with.' " Walking to the club with a friend from the theatre, some intoxi* * He took the chair at one of the anniversary dinners of the Eclectic Club—a debating society consisting of young barristers, authors, and artists. The pièce de résistance had been a saddle of mutton. After dinner the chairman rose and said : 'Well, gentlemen, I trust that the noble saddle we have eaten has grown a woolsack for one among you."

We pass from this brilliant life of gracious frolic and often deep-meaning playfulness to that calmer figure of the humourist at home, of which we have already spoken. Here the witness feels his right to speak aloud. Let us give this Putney scene in the son's own simple

"It is a bright morning, about eight o'clock, at

and pictorial words :-

West Lodge, Putney Lower Common. The windows at the side of the old house, buried in trees, afford glimpses of a broad common, tufted with purple heather and yellow gorse. Gipsies are en-camped where the blue smoke curls amid the elms. A window-sash is shot sharply up. A clear, small voice is heard singing within. And now a long roulade, whistled softly, floats out. A little, spare figure, with a stoop, habited in a short shooting jacket, the throat quite open, without collar or kerchief, and crowned with a straw hat, pushes kercher, and crowned with a straw list, possess through the gate of the cottage, and goes, with short, quick steps, assisted by a stout stick, over the common. A little black and tan terrier follows, and rolls over the grass at intervals, as a response to a cheery word from its master. The response to a cheery word from its master. The gipsy encampment is reached. The gipsies know their friend, and a chat and a laugh ensue. Then their friend, and a chat and a laugh ensue. Then a deep gulp of the sweet morning air, a dozen branches pulled to the nose here and there in the garden, the children kissed, and breakfast, and the morning papers. The breakfast is a jug of cold new milk; some toast, bacon, water-cresses. Perhaps a few strawberries have been found in the garden. garden. A long examination of the papers-here and there a bit of news energetically read aloud, then cut, and put between clippers. Then silently, suddenly, into the study. This study is a very snug room. All about it are books. Crowning the shelves are Milton and Shakspeare. A bit of Shakspeare's mulberry tree lies upon the mantel-piece. Above the sofa are 'The Rent Day' and 'Distraining for Rent,' Wilkie's two pictures, in the corner of which is Wilkie's kind inscription to the author of the drama called 'The Rent Day, Under the two prints laughs Sir Joshua's sly Puck, perched upon a pulpy mushroom. Turner's 'Heidel-berg' is here too, and the engraver thereof will berg' is here too, and the engraver thereof will drop in presently—he lives close at hand—to see his friend Douglas Jerrold. Ariadne and Dorothea decorate the chimney-piece. The furniture is simple, solid oak. The desk has not a speck upon it. The marble shell, upon which the inkstand rests, has no litter in it. Various notes lie in a row has no litter in it. Various hotes he in a row, between clips, on the table. The paper basket stands near the arm-chair, prepared for answered letters and rejected contributions. The little dog follows his master into his study, and lies at his feet. Work begins. If it be a comedy, the author will now and then walk rapidly up and down the room, talking wildly to himself; if it be Punch copy, you shall hear him laugh presently as he hits upon a droll bit. Suddenly the pen will be put upon a droit oit. Suddenly the pen will be put down, and through a little conservatory, without seeing anybody, the author will pass out into the garden, where he will talk to the gardener, or watch, chuckling the while, the careful steps of the little terrier amid the gooseberry bushes; or pluck a hawthorn leaf, and go nibbling it, and thinking, down the side walks. In again, and vehemently to work. The thought has come, and, in letters smaller than the type in which they shall presently be set, it is unrolled along the little blue slips of paper. A simple crust of bread and a glass of wine paper. A simple class of oread and a glass of which are brought in by a dear female hand; but no word is spoken, and the hand and dear heart disappear. The work goes rapidly forward, and halts at last suddenly. The pen is dashed aside; a few letters, seldom more than three lines in each, are written, and despatched to the post; and then again into the garden. The fowls and pigeons are noticed; a visit is paid to the horse and cow; and then another long turn round the lawn, at last

sitting, with a quaint old volume, in the tent, under the umbrageous mulberry tree. Friends drop in, and join Jerrold in his tent. Who will stop to dinner? Only cottage fare; but there is a hearty welcome. Conversation about the book in hand. Perhaps it is old Rabelais, or Jeremy Taylor; not improbably Jean Paul's 'Flower, Fruit and Thorn Pieces,' or his 'Levana'; or, again, one of old Sir Thomas Browne's volumes. In any there is ample matter for animated gossip. At a hint the host is up, and on his way to discover to his visitor the beauties and conveniences of his cottage. The mulberry tree especially always comes in for a glow-ing account of its rich fruitfulness; and the asparagus bed owes a heavy debt of gratitude to its master. The guest may be a phlegmatic person, and may wearily follow his excited little host, as he wande enthusiastically from one advantageous point to another; but the host is in downright about his fruit trees, as he is about everything else. He laughingly insists that his cabbages cost him at least a shilling a piece, and that cent. per cent. is the loss on his fowls' eggs. Still he relishes the cabbages and the eggs, and the first spring dish of asparagus from his own garden marks a red-letter day to him. Perhaps he will be carried away by his enthusiasm as the sun goes down, and will be seen still in his straw hat, watering the geraniums, or clearing the flies from the roses. Dinner, if there be no visitors, will be at four. In the summer, a cold quarter of lamb and salad, and a rasp berry tart, with a little French wine in the tent and a cigar. Then a short nap-forty winksupon the great sofa in the study, and another long stroll over the lawn, while the young members play bowls, and the tea is prepared in the tent. Over the tea-table, jokes of all kinds, as at dinner. No friend who may happen to drop in now will make any difference in the circle. Perhaps the fun may be extended to a game of some kind on the Basting the bear was one evening the rule, on which occasion grave editors and contributors 'basted' one another with knotted pocket-handker-chiefs, to their hearts' content. The crowning effort of this memorable evening was a general attempt to go heels over head upon haycocks in the orchard-a feat which vanquished the skill of the laughing host, and left a very stout and very responsible editor, I remember, upon his head, without power to retrieve his natural position."

This picture is very true in colour, very firm in outline. It shows, like much other writing in this volume, that the younger Mr. Jerrold is an artist of most excellent promise.

Jerrold's last appearance out of doors was at Mr. Russell's dinner. We near the end. Mr. Dickens, who met him by appointment in the Gallery of Illustration, describes the going down to Greenwich:—

"Arriving some minutes before the time (Mr. Dickens tells me), I found your father sitting alone in the hall. 'There must be some mistake,' he said. No one else was there; the place was locked up; he had tried all the doors; and he had been waiting a quarter of an hour by himself. I sat down by him in a niche on the staircase, and he told me that he had been very unwell for three or four days. A window in his study had been newly painted, and the smell of the paint (he thought it must be that) had filled him with nausea and turned him sick, and he felt weak and giddy, through not having been able to retain any food. He was a little subdued at first, and out of spirits; but we sat there half an hour talking, and when we came out together he was quite himself. In the shadow I had not observed him closely; but when we got into the sunshine of the streets I saw that looked ill. We were both engaged to dine with Mr. Russell at Greenwich, and I thought him so ill then that I advised him not to go, but to let me take him, or send him, home in a cab. He complained, however, of having turned so weak (we had now strolled as far as Leicester Square) that he was fearful he might faint in the cab, unless I could get him some restorative and unless he could 'keep it down.' I deliberated for a moment 'keep it down.' I deliberated for a moment whether to turn back to the Athenseum, where I could have got a little brandy for him, or to take

him on to Covent Garden for the purpose. Mean-while he stood leaning against the rails of the in-closure, looking, for the moment, very ill indeed. Finally, we walked on to Covent Garden, and before we had gone fifty yards he was very much better. On our way Mr. Russell joined us. He was then better still, and walked between was then better still, and waiked between us unassisted. I got him a hard biscuit, and a little weak, cold brandy and water, and begged him by all means to try to cat. He broke up and ate the greater part of the biscuit, and was much refreshed. and comforted by the brandy. He said that he felt the sickness was overcome at last, and that he was quite a new man. It would do him good to have a few quiet hours in the air, and he would go with us to Greenwich. I still tried to dissuade him; but he was by this time bent upon it; his natural colour had returned, and he was very hope ful and confident. We strolled through the Temple on our way to a boat; and I have a lively recollection of him stamping about Elm-Tree Court (with his hat in one hand, and the other pushing his hair back), laughing in his heartiest manner at a ridiculous remembrance we had in common, which I had presented in some exaggerated light to divert him. We found our boat, and went down the river, and looked at the Leviathan which was building, and talked all the way. It was a bright day, and as soon as we reached Greenwich we got an open carriage, and went out for a drive about Shooter's Hill. In the carriage Mr. Russell read us his lecture, and we discussed it with great interest. We planned out the ground of Inkermann on the heath, and your father was very earnest indeed. The subject held us so that we were graver than usual; but he broke out, at intervals, in the same hilarious way as in the Temple, and he over and over again said to me, with great satisfaction, how happy he was that he had 'quite got over that paint.' The dinner-party was a large one, and I did not sit near him at table. But he and I had arranged, before we went in to dinner, that he was to eat only of some simple dish that we agreed upon, and was only to drink sherry and We broke up very early, and before I went away with Mr. Leech, who was to take me to don, I went round to Jerrold, and put my hand upon his shoulder, asking him how he was. He turned round to show me the glass beside him, with 'I have kept to the a little wine and water in it. 'I have kept to the prescription; it has answered as well as this mornprescription; it has answered as well as this morning's, my dear old boy. I have quite got over the paint, and I am perfectly well.' He was really elated by the relief of having recovered, and was as quietly happy as I ever saw him. We exchanged 'God bless you!' and shook hands. I went down to Gad's Hill next morning, where he was to write to me after a little while, appointing his own time for coming to see me there. A week afterwards, another passenger in the railway-carriage in which I was on my way to London Bridge, opened his morning paper, and said, 'Douglas Jerrold is dead.'"

Jerrold in his little study, with a cigar, a flask of Rhine wine on the table, a cedar log on the fire, and half-a-dozen literary youngsters round the board listening to his bright wit and his wisdom that was brighter even than his wit,-this is, we think, the image of the good friend and singular humourist that will live most brightly and permanently in the minds of those who knew him. Warmth and generosity, haste in giving and forgiving, a passionate desire to see every one cheery, prosperous, and content, went with him from cradle to tomb. His mound of flowers was nobly earned. Men who linger wistfully on the memory of that tiny frame, on that eager, radiant face, on those infantine ways, with their wonderfully subtle and elaborate guilelessness, on that ailing constitution and fiery blood, on that joyous, tender, teasing, frolicsome, thoughtful heart, must always think of him, less as of the flashing wit and scathing satirist,—than as of some marvellously gifted, noble, and wayward child, the sport of nature and the delight of man. He will be recalled to those who knew and loved him, not by any

big and sounding appellation, but by some affectionate and soft diminutive:—not as brilliant Douglas or magnificent Douglas, but simply and fondly as dear Douglas.

The Three Archbishops: Lanfranc, Anselm, A'Becket. By Washington and Mark Wilks.

BIOGRAPHY constitutes one of the most charming departments of literature, but only when it developes itself in obedience to its own laws. The moment it begins to trench upon the grand domain of history, it loses its characteristic interest without acquiring anything of that breadth, force, and majesty belonging to all breath, force, and majesty belonging to an historical compositions which deserve the name. We object, therefore, to works of a hybrid character which are neither history nor biography, but a mild mixture of both. If our predecessors have not transmitted to us sufficient materials for constructing the biography of any distinguished man, that is a good rea-son for abstaining from the undertaking, but no reason whatever for extending a thin biographical line through the history of the period in which the individual lived, and then calling

The writers of the volume before us should have pondered on an anecdote related of a great Roman general. When one of his secretaries was toiling through a volume which he had given him to read, he said "Do you read or sing? If you sing, you sing very ill." So we say to the Messrs. Wilks, Do you write biography or history? If you write history, you write it very unskilfully, to say no worse. It that they have not made up their minds respecting the character which they ought to attribute to Lanfranc. Was he, according to the conceptions of his age, a pious, earnest, single-minded monk, devoted exclusively to his order, and aiming at nothing but its advance-ment? Or was he an ambitious worldling, comprehending the circumstances of the times in which he lived, and resolved, in the pursuit of power and fame, to turn them unscrupulously to account?

We find in the pages of these writers indications of the alternate predominance of both theories. This is inexcusable. Before we undertake to write a man's life we ought at least to persuade ourselves that we understand him, that we have fathomed the sources of his idiosyncrasies, the depths out of which his moral and intellectual qualities sprang, and that we are able by means of an elaborate narrative to explain his peculiarities, and pre-sent the reader with a faithful picture of him in all relations of life.

At certain periods in the history of literature, there prevails a strong tendency to represent both men and things in an agreeable light. This is considered amiable. But as we did not create the past, we are by no means answerable for its aspect or the principles it brought into play. All we have to do, when we undertake to describe it, is to speak the truth as far as it may be known to us. Lanfranc's new biographers, in conformity with the prevailing habit of our times, aim at doing the agreeable to the scheming Lombard,—who, both in the-ological and political matters, blew hot and cold, adopted the great leading principle of Pro-testantism—the denial of the Real Presence and then, after he had thoroughly compromised

audaciously reviewed their ecclesiastical history, and struck out from the calendar the names of English saints and martyrs, he corrupted the texts of their manuscripts, and in his secular character crushed with an iron hand all popular movements. To such a man we are not inclined to attribute a "lofty and spiritual mind," or the possession of real piety, or humility, or the love of abstinence for its own sake, or anything, in short, but a fierce determination—which implies, no doubt, great mental energy—to convert all his talents and his learning into so many means of domineering over his contemporaries, and transmitting his name with éclat to future times.

Anselm, the second archbishop, is converted by the writers of this volume into a peg upon which to hang an immense amount of historical drapery. But we fear very much that in entering upon such an enterprise, they did not accurately count the cost. They thought it enough apparently to skim over the surface of the subject, to consult historical novels, and biographies scarcely to be distinguished from them; and though they may have looked back occasionally to those tough but interesting old gentlemen, the Chroniclers, it was only to make passing acquaintances and not familiar friends of them. We have strong doubts whether any amount of research would bring to light materials sufficient to constitute a proper biography of Lanfranc or Anselm. Our ancestors supplied the place of knowledge with legends and miracles. When they were at a loss for a trait of manners, or a characteristic anecdote, they thought it perfectly allowable to invent a supernatural incident, to introduce a few spirits, good or bad, or to throw open, through visionary vistas, departments of Pan-demonium or Paradise. There are many among us who would gladly do the same if they could. But as a people we have outlived the age of legend and mystery, and are rapidly becoming historical; that is, preferring severe truth, with its stern teaching, to the lively blandishments of fiction.

Thomas A'Becket, though still far from being understood, has had more than enough written about him. That he was a great man, no historical student will deny. But what was the nature of his greatness? Was it theological? Was it political? Did he, as some have thought, derive from the warm Saxon blood which flowed in his veins a strong motive for thwarting the power and shaking the dominion of the Norman kings? Or was he simply a man ambitious for himself, or for the Church of which he formed so remarkable an ornament? Was his career an heroic epic, rendered brilliant by patriotism and the light of self-sacrificing virtue? Or was it only the perpetual contest of a papal pilgrim, of one of Rome's innumerable martyrs to the supreme predominance of the unknown

over the known

The volume before us touches upon several of these problems, but solves none. aim, as stated in the preface, is not a little ambitious, being no less than to sum up the history of the Church "during the reigns of the first five Norman kings." The reader, however, when he has gone through the volume, will not find himself in possession of the promised knowledge. Neither will he be in any sense familiarized with the eleventh and twelfth centuries, though his curiosity to know something about them may be piqued, and therefore to some extent he will feel himself to be under an himself, wheeled round and attacked the friend who had been his master. Here in England his conduct was completely in harmony with his tergiversations at Rome. He persecuted the people, he native clergy, he ridiculed the people, he not only in startling incidents and gorgeous

shows, but in religious, political, and social instruction. But to yield such a crop, the soil must be tilled by the proper hands and manured with the proper manure—that is, with patient industry, judgment, and learning.

In the annals of the Papacy Hildebrand is

great; but raised to the same eminence Becket would have been a greater Hildebrand. Even as an archbishop in this our island, separated as the old writers used to sav from the rest of the world, and forming a little world of itself, he discovered the secret, not only of attaching to himself the whole English people, but of agitating to its profoundest depths the entire mind of Europe. The language in which the idolatry paid to him is described would in these sober days be considered blasphemous. During the dormant state of the European intellect, Christ was habitually postponed to his Mother, and that Mother herself was postponed to Thomas A'Becket. Pilgrimages from all parts of the Christian world were made to his tomb, which became a fount of miraculous power. Nay, to pray to this son of a Saracen in secret, on a bed of illness, when done in all sincerity of heart, was supposed to ensure relief. Chaucer speaks emphatically of this general conviction in his Prologue to the Canterbury Tales. Observing that persons from every shire in England left their homes with the opening spring to pay their vows in the old capital of Ethelbert, whither they went, he

The holy blissful martyr for to seke, That them have holpen when that they were sike.

If the reader expects to find this man in his true dimensions in the pages of the volume before us, he will be disappointed.

The Minister's Wooing. By Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. No. I. (Low & Co.)

Mrs. Stowe drums once more upon the old tabor. More agony and blood, more patient saints in black, with yet other Ophelias and St. Clairs, we already foresee, even from the open-ing pages of her new tale. We have perhaps no right to grumble, for Mrs. Stowe presents herself less as a novelist than as a missionary; and the laws binding on an artist may be very wisely spurned by one who aspires to the crown of an apostle. We must take her as she is, with her sameness of subject, her narrow views, her woman's aptness to sermonize, -and when we have allowed for these things-laughed at them, it may be -enough will remain of true power in story-telling, of subtle insight into character, and of descriptive vigour in the portraiture of scenery and emotion, to carry us through. Not sorry, therefore, are we to see a new tale from her hand, even though the first page carry us back to the middle passage,— with its scent of blood, its clank of chain, and its horrible suggestion of a procession of expectant sharks.

This introduction of one of the heroineswe infer there may be two, mother and daughter, perhaps more—abounds in pretty touches, and will remind every one of the hand that

shaped Miss Ophelia:-

"Mrs. Katy Scudder had invited Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Jones, and Deacon Twitchel's wife to take tea with her on the afternoon of June second, A.D. 17—. When one has a story to tell, one is always puzzled which end of it to begin at. You have a whole corps of people to introduce that you know and your reader doesn't; and one thing so presupposes another, that, whichever way you turn your patchwork, the figures still seem ill-arranged. The small item that I have given will do as well as any other to begin with, as it certainly will lead you to ask, 'Pray, who was Mrs. Katy Scudder?'—and this will start me systematically

on my story. You must understand that in the then small seaport-town of Newport, at that time unconscious of its present fashion and fame, there lived nobody in those days who did not know 'the Widow Scudder.' In New England settlements a custom has obtained, which is wholesome and touching, of ennobling the woman whom God has made desolate, by a sort of brevet rank which con-tinually speaks for her as a claim on the respect and consideration of the community. The Widow Jones, or Brown, or Smith, is one of the fixed institutions of every New England village,—and doubtless the designation acts as a continual plea for one whom bereavement, like the lightning of heaven, has made sacred. The Widow Scudder, however, was one of the sort of women who reign queens in whatever society they move in; nobody was more quoted, more deferred to, or enjoyed more unquestioned position than she. She was not rich,
—a small farm, with a modest, 'gambrel-roofed,'
one-story cottage, was her sole domain; but she
was one of the much-admired class who, in the
speech of New England, are said to have 'faculty,' —a gift which, among that shrewd people, commands more esteem than beauty, riches, learning, or any other worldly endowment. Faculty is Yankee for savoir faire, and the opposite virtue to shiftless ness. Faculty is the greatest virtue, and shiftless-ness the greatest vice, of Yankee man and woman. To her who has faculty nothing shall be impossible. She shall scrub floors, wash, wring, bake, brew, and yet her hands shall be small and white; she shall have no perceptible income, yet always be hand-somely dressed; she shall have not a servant in her house,—with a dairy to manage, hired men to feed, a boarder or two to care for, unheard-of pickling and preserving to do,—and yet you commonly see her every afternoon sitting at her shady parlour-window behind the lilacs, cool and easy, hemming muslin cap-strings, or reading the last new book. She who hath faculty is never in a hurry, never behindhand. She can always step over to distressed Mrs. Smith, whose jelly won't come,—and stop to show Mrs. Jones how she makes her pickles so green, and be ready to watch with poor old Mrs. Simpkins, who is down with the rheumatism. Of this genus was the Widow Scudder."

Then we have a portrait of the young heroine's father, now dead:

"George Scudder was a grave, thoughtful young man,—not given to talking, and silent in the society of women, with that kind of reverential bashfulness which sometimes shows a pure, unworldly nature. How Katy came to fancy him worldly nature. How Katy came to fancy him everybody wondered,—for he never talked to her, never so much as picked up her glove when it fell, never asked her to ride or sail; in short, everybody said she must have wanted him from sheer wilfulness, because he of all the young men of the neighbourhood never courted her. But Katy, having very sharp eyes, saw some things that nobody else saw. For example, you must know she discovered by mere accident that George Scudder always was looking at her, wherever she moved, though he looked away in a moment, if discovered—and that an accidental touch of her hand or brush of her dress would send the blood into his cheek like the spirit in the tube of a thermometer; and so, as women are curious, you know, Katy amused her-self with investigating the causes of these little phenomena, and, before she knew it, got her foot caught in a colweb that held her fast, and constrained her, whether she would or no, to marry a poor man that nobody cared much for but herself. George was, in truth, one of the sort who evidently have made some mistake in coming into this world at all, as their internal furniture is in no way suited to its general courses and currents. He was of the order of dumb poets,—most wretched when put to the grind of the hard and actual; for if he who would the grind of the hard and actual; for if he who would utter poetry stretches out his hand to a gainsaying world, he is worse off still who is possessed with the desire of living it. Especially is this the case, if he be born poor, and with a dire necessity upon him of making immediate efforts in the hard and actual. George had a helpless invalid mother to support; so though he leved reading. mother to support; so though he loved reading and silent thought above all things, he put to

instant use the only convertible worldly talent he possessed, which was a mechanical genius, and shipped at sixteen as a ship-carpenter. He studied navigation in the forecastle, and found in its calm diagrams and tranquil eternal signs food for his thoughtful nature, and a refuge from the brutality and coarseness of sea life. He had a healthful, kindly animal nature, and so his inwardness did not ferment and turn to Byronic sourness and not ferment and turn to bytome sources and bitterness; nor did he needlessly parade to every-body in his vicinity the great gulf which lay between him and them. He was called a good fellow,—only a little lumpish,—and as he was brave and faithful, he rose in time to be a shipmaster. But when came the business of making money, the aptitude for accumulating, George found himself distanced by many a one with not half his general powers. What shall a man do half his general powers. What shall a man do with a sublime tier of moral faculties, when the most profitable business out of his port is the slave-trade? So it was in Newport in those days. George's first voyage was on a slaver, and he wished himself dead many a time before it was over,—and ever after would talk like a man beside himself, if the subject was named. He declared that the gold made in it was distilled from human blood, from mother's tears, from the agonies and blood, from mother's tears, from the agoines and dying groans of gasping, suffocating men and women, and that it would sear and blister the soul of him that touched it; in short, he talked as whole-souled unpractical fellows are apt to talk about what respectable people sometimes do. No-body had ever instructed him that a slave-ship, with a procession of expectant sharks in its wake, is a missionary institution, by which closely-packed heathens are brought over to enjoy the light of the gospel. So, though George was acknowledged to be a good fellow, and honest as the noon-mark on the kitchen floor, he let slip so many chances of making money as seriously to compromise his reputation among thriving folks. He was wastefully generous,—insisted on treating every poor dog that came in his way, in any foreign port, as a brother -absolutely refused to be party in cheating or deceiving the heathen on any shore, or in skin of any colour, and also took pains, as far as in him lay, to spoil any bargains which any of his suborates founded on the ignorance or weakness of dinates founded on the ignorance of the his fellow-men. So he made voyage after voyage, and gained only his wages and the reputation among his employers of an incorruptibly honest fellow."

Of the Mary that sprung from this pair of lovers, we have, of course, a very elaborate pre-sentation, not very bright in colour, and very unmanageable in length. Of cousin James who seems likely to make a great deal of the mischief of this story, we have also a peep. How James comes to be in love with cousin Mary needs no telling. Such things always come to pass easily in novels; but what the two young hearts make of it may be read in

the following scene:-

"There was a swish and rustle in the orchard grass, and a tramp of elastic steps; then the branches were brushed aside, and a young man suddenly emerged from the trees a little behind Mary. He was apparently about twenty-five, dressed in the holiday rig of a sailor on shore, which well set off his fine athletic figure, and accorded with a sort of easy, dashing, and confident air which sat not unhandsomely on him. For the rest, a high forehead shaded by rings of the blackest hair, a keen, dark eye, a firm and deter blackest hair, a keen, dark eye, a firm and determined mouth, gave the impression of one who had engaged to do battle with life, not only with a will, but with shrewdness and ability. He introduced the colloquy by stepping deliberately behind Mary, putting his arms round her neck, and kissing her. 'Why, James!' said Mary, starting up and blushing. 'Come now!'—'I have come, haven't I?' said the young man, leaning his elbow on the window seat and looking at her with an air of comic determined frankness, which yet an air of comic determined frankness, which yet had in it such wholesome honesty that it was scarcely possible to be angry. 'The fact is, Mary,' he added, with a sudden earnest darkening of the face, 'I won't stand this nonsense any longer.

Aunt Katy has been holding me at arm's length ever since I got home; and what have I done? Haven't I been to every prayer meeting and lecture and sermon, since I got into port, just as regular as a psalm-book? and not a bit of a word could I get with you, and no chance even so much as to give you my arm. Aunt Kate always comes between us and says, "Here, Mary, you take my arm." What does she think I go to meeting for, and almost break my jaws keeping down the gapes I never even go to sleep, and yet I am treated in this way! It's too bad! What's the row? What's any body been saying about me? I always have waited on you ever since you were that high, Didn't I always draw you to school on my sled? didn't we always use to do our sums together? didn't I always wait on you to singing school? and I've been made free to run in and out as if I were your brother; -and now she is as glum and stiff, and always stays in the room every minute of the time that I am there, as if she was afraid I should be in some mischief. It's too bad!'—'Oh, James, be in some mischief. It's too bad?—'Oh, James, I am sorry that you only go to meeting for the sake of seeing me; you feel no real interest in religious things; and besides, mother thinks now I'm grown so old that—Why, you know things are different now,—at least, we mustn't, you know, always do as we did when we were children. But I wish you did feel more interested in good things. -'I am interested in one or two good things, Mary,—principally in you, who are the best I know of. Besides, he said quickly, and scanning her face attentively to see the effect of his words, don't you think there is more merit in my sitting these meetings when they bere me so con foundedly, than there is in your and Aunt Katy's doing it, who really seem to find something to like in them? I believe you have a sixth sense, quite unknown to me; for its all a maze,—I can't find top, nor bottom, nor side, nor up, nor down to it, -it's you can and you can't, you shall and you shan't, you will and you won't, --- 'James!'-'You needn't look at me so. I'm not going to say the rest of it. But, seriously, its all anywhere and nowhere to me; it don't touch me, it don't help me, and I think it rather makes me worse; and then they tell me it's because I'm a natural man, and the natural man understandeth not the thir of the Spirit. Well, I am a natural man,-how as fellow to help it?—'Well, James, why need you talk everywhere as you do? You joke, and jest, and trifle, till it seems to everybody that you don't believe in anything. I'm afraid mother thinks you are an infidel, but I know that can't be; yet we hear of all sorts of thines that you say.—'I suphear of all sorts of things that you say. pose you mean my telling Deacon Twitchel that pose you mean my tening Deacon I whener that I had seen as good Christians among the Mahometans as any in Newport. Didn't I make him open his eyes? It's true, too!'—'In every nation, he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him,' said Mary; 'and if there are better Christians than us among the Mahometans. accepted of Him,' said Mary; 'and if there are better Christians than us among the Mahometans, I am sure I'm glad of it. But, after all, the greats question is, "Are we Christians ourselves?" Oh, James, if you only were a real, true, noble Christian?—'Well, Mary, you have got into that harbour, through all the sand-bars and rocks and crooked channels; and now do you think it right to leave a fellow beating about outside, and not go out to help him in? This way of drawing up, among you good people, and leaving us sinners to ourselves. you good people, and leaving us sinners to ourselves, isn't generous. You might care a little for the soul of an old friend, anyhow!'—'And don't I care, James? How many days and nights have een one prayer for you! If I could take my hopes of heaven out of my own heart and give them to you, I would. Dr. H. preached last Sunday on the text, "I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen"; and he went on to show how we must be willing to give up even our own salvation, if necessary, for the good of others. People said it was hard doctrine, but I could feel my way through it very well. Y would give my soul for yours; I wish I could.'— There was a solemnity and pathos in Mary's manner which checked the conversation. James was the more touched because he felt it all se real, from one whose words were always yea and nay, so true, so inflexibly simple. Her eyes filled with tears, her

face kindled with a sad earnestness, and James thought, as he looked, of a picture he had once seen in a European cathedral, where the youthful Mother of Sorrows is represented,

Radiant and grave, as pitying man's decline; All youth, but with an aspect beyond time; Mournful, but mournful of another's crime; She looked as if she sat by Eden's door, And grieved for those who should return no more."

Rather startling this quotation from the wicked Don Juan in such a place! We have heard of Shakspeare in the pulpit,—but this is probably the first time that Don Juan has found himself in a sermon.

Of course, it is yet too soon for us to pro-nounce an opinion on the 'Minister's Wooing' as a tale. We announce its appearance, and

pass it on to the reader.

"The Over-Good Lady": a Comedy in Five *Acts; written in Free Rhyme, and Sequel to 'The Romantic Lady'—('La Donna Bigotta,' &c.] By Riccardo Castelvecchio. (Naples.) 'Over-good,' it is needless to explain, is no translation of 'Bigotta': to the English, how-ever, it will indicate the humour and argument of this comedy better than a more exact rendering of the precise epithet. This play-sequel to 'La Donna Romantica,' mentioned in a late to La Donna romantica, mendoned in a law of continu-letter from Naples, follows the law of continu-ations. Only a Beaumarchais could surpass a 'Barbier de Seville' by a 'Mariage de Figaro.' Signor Castelvecchio (the assumed name of a nobleman belonging to North Italy) has rattled through his five acts in happy, slip-shod ease. The versification of our burlesques is not freer than his. The Romantic Lady of the first comedy,—full to overflowing folly of texts from George Sand and Balzac, and bent on wearing boots and buckskins to prove her emancipation, was cured by an in-genious Doctor, who fooled her to the top of he-bent; and left her with nothing save a woman's heart and conscience to enable her to face the ridicule of a catastrophe she had courted. Cure of one disease, however, does not imply panacea rendering other maladies impossible. The Romantic Lady has become uneasy at the state of good health to which she was brought, -will have new excitements.-The duties of a wife and a mother have ceased to suffice her. She will be ascetic, bigoted, extravagantly philanthropic, - in two words, "over-good. But a national touch in the second, as in the former comedy, is worth noticing.—In the days when the Countess Irene was given to cigars and steeple-chasing, she was largely cheered on in her absurdities by a house-friend, one Cavaliere Ascanio, whose serpentine selfishness reproduced, in a higher form, that old meanness, obsequious flattery, sensuality, and love of drinking chocolate paid for by the lady's hus-band, which figure so perpetually in the cavaliere of Goldoni's comedies. Now that the Countess of Goldon's comedies. Now that the Counteess Irene has taken to wearing black gowns "up in the neck,"—now that in place of china for her plaything, she pets a skull, and lives in a room which contains, by way of furniture, only one hard, wooden bench—a stool of repentance, influence, extra-marital influence, as before, is largely chargeable with the humour which possesses her.—The influencing "party" is a major domo, or almoner, by some degrees more hypocritical and worthless than his predecessor, the rakish man of pleasure.—The husband is as placid an optimist in the second play as in the first.—The "over-good" lady is brought to her senses as the "romantic" one was,—by the sensible prescriptions of Doctor Nuvoletti; but whereas, formerly, that clever physician practised directly on herself—this time he works by unveiling the greediness, duplicity, and utter

rascality of her ghostly counsellor. The lady is shocked, warned, and repents, - let it be hoped for a last time, since Signor Castelvecchio will hardly venture to conjure her up again as the victim to some third disease. His comedy, meanwhile (an episodical scene excepted, which is meant to hit ignorant practitioners of medicine), goes on with an artless clearness, which seems distinctive of modern clearness, which seems distinctive of modern Italian drama, and which is, we consider, a sign of health and promise. This 'Over-good Lady,' too, has, possibly, a hold on the public deeper than Italian Censorships dream of. It may be considered a protest, in its farcical way, against the priestly interference which has made such cruel havoc of domestic happiness, and is so perverse and subtle obstacle to progress. Against this mischief, persuasion avails little—argument less; while coercive authority is considered as merely so much persecution. No weapon of greater efficacy exists than ridicule. The epidemic extravagances of Low and of High Church, which we have lived to see succeed each other in England, have had few more damaging adver-saries than the Canon of St. Paul's. A "Sydney" will stick and be remembered long after the thunder of heavier broadsides has died away. Signor Castelvecchio is no more a Smith than he is a Beaumarchais; and we hardly conceive that he meant in 'La Donna Bigotta' to do that he meant in 'La Donna Bigotta' to do service to his countrymen and countrywomen, by plucking the mask off Hypocrisy's ugly face—for by late advices from Lombardy, we perceive that a new play of his, on the story of 'Ugo Foscolo,' was the other day driven from the stage at Milan, on account of the distasteful amount of "Austrian sentiments" which it was thought to contain.

Godfrey of Bulloigne; or, Jerusalem Delivered.

By Torquato Tasso. Translated by Edward
Fairfax. Edited by Robert Aris Willmott. (Routledge & Co.)

In the slight sketch of the life of Edward Fairfax, with which Mr. Willmott prefaces his, or rather tuneful Edward's, volume, he alludes to the alleged illegitimacy of the poet, and adds that "the degree of his (Fairfax's) relationship neither affected the poet's educa-tion nor the regard of his kindred." With respect to the first fact, it may be stated that the accurate Sir Robert Douglas in his Scotch Peerage, Theophilus Cibber in his 'Lives,' Chalmers in his Dictionary, and many other writers, hold the illegitimacy of the poet to be beyond dispute. These several deponents would not respectively have great claim to be considered as Sir Oracle in this matter. We must go to another source in order to be convinced we have attained the truth. Elizabeth's good knight, Sir Thomas Fairfax of Denton, had five sons, Thomas, Henry, Ferdi-nando,—Charles, and Edward. A grandson of Sir Thomas, Charles Fairfax, drew up the 'Analecta Fairfaxiana.' It is fairly inferred that he was well acquainted with the exact relationship of every member of the family of Sir Thomas. Now, in detailing the names of the children of that knight, the compiler of the Analecta' gives the names of the first three sons named above, adds that there were also two daughters, who died young, and then incloses in a parenthesis ("Sir Charles Fairfax and Edward Fairfax of Newhall, Esq.")
"The inference," says Mr. Johnson, in his historical and biographical memoir of the Fairfax family, "apparently intended to be drawn from this form of exclusion is, that they were both natural children." And a very reasonable inference it is.

However this may be, the two young fellows so bracketed encountered very opposite destinies. Charles took arms, saw foreign service, and died Governor of Ostend. He was standing by the side of a Marshal of France, when the latter had his skull dashed to pieces by a cannon-shot. The missile was harmless to Charles Fairfax, not so the thick skull of the hard-headed Marshal,—a piece of which striking Col. Fairfax in the face, inflicted a wound of which he died, in 1604.

Edward, the poet, "took a shadier path," as

Mr. Willmott puts it,-

"like a later and more illustrious poet,
To the attractions of the busy world,
Preferring studious leisure.

He anticipated the opinion of Dryden, that rural recreation abroad, and books at home, are the innocent pleasures of a man who is early wise; and finding a wife to endear his studies, he settled at New Hall, Fuyistone, between his ancestral home and the forest of Knaresborough. There he spent many fruitful years in the cultivation of lite-rature and the nurture of his children; of whom rature and the nurrure of his children; of whom the eldest, William, became tutor to Thomas Stanley, and assisted him in compiling the Lives of the Philosophers, and the notes on Euripides. Aubrey informs us that he was reckoned a singular scholar in all kinds of learning."

The translation of the 'Jerusalem Delivered' appeared four years before the death of Edward's brother. He is supposed to have been about as long in accomplishing his harmonious work; and not much short of a quarter of a century elapsed before it had passed through a first edition. The one before us is, we believe, the fifth. The translator himself only saw it reach a second edition when he died in 1632. This is almost the sum of what is known of him. He lived quietly, married happily, sang tenderly, and died hopefully. Many a hero of whole volumes of biographical details cannot boast of half so pleasant a "life, character, and be-haviour." When we saw New Hall, a few years since, the house and place looked decayed and desolate, just the stage for the witches whose pranks were described by the head of

the family whom they disturbed.

Edward was a courtly before he was a popular poet. King James valued his version of Tasso above all other Familia. "above all other English poetry," which was undoubtedly carrying his royal admiration a little too far. King Charles "cheered his imprisonment with the poem,—a proof, as Hartley Coleridge remarks, of its strange fascination, since the name of Fairfax could not destroy the charm." Let us add, too, since we are in the mood of gossip, that if the sorrow of Charles could be soothed by the poetry of a Fairfax, so also was the wrath of Rupert once turned aside also was the wrath of Rupert once turned aside by the sight of a portrait of a Fairfax. When the "hot prince" was on his way from Lancaster to York, he slept in the old house at Denton which fell to Sir William Fairfax by his mar-riage with Isabel Thwaites. Local tradition, as we well remember, asserts that Rupert in-tended to destroy the house at Denton, but that he was diverted from his purpose by his eye resting on the portrait of John Fairfax. "But three-and-twenty years have passed," said Ru-pert, "since John Fairfax fell in defending pert, "since John Fairfax fell in defending Frankenthal; his service and his sacrifice in the Palatinate have saved this house in which he dwelt";-and so Rupert went on his way to enact a part in the great drama at Marston Moor. We may add that, not only John, but also his brother William, fell at Frankenthal; and that when Spinola ruthlessly destroyed all other monuments, he left untouched the one raised to the two brothers by the Elector

What James valued, and the fountain whence Charles drew solace, was approved

by Dryden, and by Waller, who confessedly derived the harmony of his own numbers from the Godfrey,—was loved by Milton,—and was appreciated by Pope. "Collins crowned Rainfa," with with a wreath of noble poetry, Hume could suspend his own deep thinking for joyous listening,-Hallam could not resist a meed of praise, - and Campbell numbers his poem among the glories of the Elizabethan reign. Poetry and philosophy joined in proclaiming the merits of the singer; and the public of to-day may be well content to have Tasso in this form, and to sit, as Collins did,-

—when piped the pensive wind, To hear his harp by BRITISH FAIRFAX strung! Prevailing poet! whose undoubting mind Believed the magic wonders which he sung!

It must be confessed that Fairfax strings Tasso's harp not always after the fashion of the Bard of Sorrento; and he sweeps its chords freely and independently, wresting or per-suading music from them which is less the exact music of Torquato than it is the original inspiration of the new bard adding fresh harmonies to the echoes of the old harp. The vigour of Fairfax, we think, is especially observable in his rendering of Tasso's heroines. To each he seems to add something that is not in the 'Jerusalem.' The gentle damsels of the poem have additional touches of the beauty of humility; the bolder ladies tread more queenly; and that dashing virago, Clorinda, breaks in upon you with a clatter which is perfectly astounding. It may be heresy to say it, but we are not very much addicted to the worship of Tasso's heroines. The heroes who fall into a hysterical sort of love for them seem to us to have been very easily seduced into adoration. These ladies are very striking creatures, but they have not a promise about them of making homes happy and husbands comfortable; and there is an aptness in them for fibbing, which shows the looseness of their education. The lovers, too, often lack manly dignity. Take, as an example, Sophronia, that

shop for merchandise Full of rich stuff, but none for sale exposed and her young suitor Olindo. The damsel, it will be remembered, becomes heroic on the strength of a falsehood. "O noble lie! Was ever truth so good?" exclaims the poet. The noble lie brings her and her lover, too, to the stake; and there the Christian bard makes but a very un-Christian sort of sufferer of Olindo. The young martyr finds his chief misery in the thought of anticipated delights now annihilated, and has no consolation in the hopes of another Heaven than that he had been aspiring to .-

About the pile of faggots, sticks, and hay,
The bellows rais'd the newly kindled flame,
When thus Olindo, in a doleful lay,
Begun too late his bootless plaints to frame:
"Be these the bonds? Is this the hoped-for day,
Should join me to this long-desired dame?
Is this the fire alike should burn our hearts?
Ah, hard reward for lovers' kind deserts!

An, nature want for novers kind queers; "Par other flames and bonds kind lovers prove, But thus our fortune casts the hapless die; Death hath exchanged again his shafts with Love, And Cupid thus lets borrow'd arrows fly. O Hymen, say, what fury doth thee move To lend thy lamps to light a tragedy? Yet this contents me that I die for thee; Thy flames, not mine, my death and torment be."

The lady very properly remarks that Far other plaints (dear friend) tears and laments The time, the place, and our estates require;

These passages will, probably, recall to our readers the scene described by another Christian poet,—namely, Young, in his 'Force of Religion; or, Vanquished Love,' where Lady Jane Grey and her husband, Lord Guildford, go on their melancholy way to death. The young husband talks very much in the style of Olindo, his uxoriousness is marvellous. The writer of the Life of Young, prefixed to Tegg's edition of Young's works, says of Guildford that, "a

very little alteration of words would give to his speeches the over-warm tone of the ridiculous husbands in Foote's farces and Congreve's plays. His grief is not half so lively at losing his wife as at being deprived, by her death, of the dear delights he loved. His anticipations have no religious aspect; and his retrospect is busied with alluding to matters that, at such a moment, might well have been forgotten." We confess we never read the wailing of Olindo, commencing with

Questo dunque è quel laccio ond' io sperai Teco accopiarmi in compagnia di vita,

without being reminded of the whining of Young's Guildford, whose "anguish fed on his

enjoyments past."
Dismissing this handsome volume with a word of hearty commendation for the careful way in which it has been edited by Mr. Willmott, we may allude to and inquire after the "Tasso Manuscripts," discovered or composed by sub-Lieutenant Count Alberti. The history should not be lost. It is just four-and-twenty years since the Count announced to the world his possession of these papers, - including letters, new poems, and songs. It is just twenty years since he sold a portion of them to Mazze-roni, the bookseller of Ancona,—and that portion, consisting of documents relative to the poet's residence at Ferrara, was, as we remember, published. But when the Papal sub-Lieutenant sold another portion of documents, relative to the imprisonment of Tasso, to Giusti of Lucca, who also published them, the offended Mazzeroni accused the Count of having forged the entire collection, and brought him to trial thereon. In the Count's lodgings were found (it is said) an immense collection of writing tools, different coloured inks, various age-tinted papers, and innumerable exercises in imitation of the handwriting of more than fifty eminent individuals of Tasso's time. The trial dragged on for several years,—but in 1844 the Tribunal condemned the Count to seven years' imprison-ment as fabricator of the Tasso documents. Appeal was made against this sentence, a new trial was granted,-and, in 1851, the commission charged with the examination of the affair, having it proved before them that the manuscripts had formerly belonged to the Abbé Marcantonio, who had bequeathed them to Prince Falconieri, from whose library they had passed to Count Alberti (who now, for the first time, revealed how he had become possessed of them), formally declared the whole of the manu-

who dares to marry without his licence, and, in revenge, he summons around him a voracious swarm of smaller Firkins, who wait impatiently for his death, last will and testament. Of cours he is a hard-hearted brute, the opprobrium of the commercial class, icy, selfish, a hater of the poor; but it falls out, in the end, that this rich though wretched Firkin, after a temporary trance, returns to the path of humanity, discards his rapacious kindred, and renders justice to the immaculate heroine, Rachel. Within this framework Mr. Butler has wrought a narrative denunciation of vulgar wealth, of covetousness, ostentation, tyranny, and other characteristic vices of the purse-proud. It is written in a spirit similar to that of 'Nothing to Wear, and is of the same merit, as a flying satire of and for the passing day, without any pretence to more than a mushroom popularity. In the following lines, it is set forth how a herald made out an escutcheon for the magnificent mer-

chant, Firkin:

Instead of faming shield, with fancy pattern,
And golden gules, bright as the rings of Saturn,
He chose a Silver Dollar, freshly minted,
And with bold touches and designs unstinted,
Traced with all manner of mystical freemasoury,
Made it a rampant, stylish bit of blazonry.
It was a sort of circular allegory
Of the Two Millions and their owner's glory.
This suited Firkin better than progenitors,
In longest line of Presidents or Senators;
He had it painted on his carriage-doors,
Stamped on his spoons, and inlaid in his floors;
It shone, repleadent, on each piece of china;
No work of art, he fancied, could be finer,
When he beheld its lines, so bright away,
Gleam in the soup and glimmer through the gravy!

Then rises, like a mirage, in Wall Street, a splen did speculation—the Great Gold Swamp, in which the husband of Rachel is engulfed, but whence Firkin contrives to scramble, as "two-million" men generally do. In six weeks it comes to a

crash:—

The great Gold Swamp,
Inaugurated with such pride and pomp,
Only six weeks before, by an Excursion,
Of which we all perused the pleasing version,
In all the papers; graced by two ex-Presidents,
And all the city's most distinguished residents;
A splendid dinner, at which General Diddle
Headed the board (a model in the middle,
Of the Gold Swamp and neighbouring morasses,
Splendidly done in sugar and molasses),
Supported by a score of Peter Funke,
Of the mock Mining stamp, who deal in chunks
Of confidence ores and metals, as examples,
And sell the bowels of the earth by samples I
A brilliant festival, and when, quite late,
The Engineer, Twobottles, rose to state,
The Swamp was yielding at the fabulous rate
Of Fifty Millions monthly, the whole table
With cheers and tigers was a perfect Babel.
The Swamp, I say, though dressed in such bright raiment
Of hope and promise, falled, suspended payment.

The crash leaves half the world ruined, but Firkin

The crash leaves half the world ruined, but Firkin is still upright in his New York Palace

time, revealed how he had become possessed of them), formally declared the whole of the manuscripts to be perfectly genuine, and the Sacra Consulta thereupon quashed the previous conviction and released the Count from captivity, just as it was concluded under the old sentence. We have heard a belief expressed that some small portion of these manuscripts was undoubtedly genuine, and that on the foundation of a few lines from Tasso's pen the fabricators, whoever they may have been, constructed whole poems. Have any of these poems been published since the rehabilitating decree of the Sacra Consulta in 1851,—and do they bear more or less likeness to the 'Jerusalem' than Ireland's 'Vortigern' did to 'Hamlet' or 'Coriolanus'?' At all events, it is well to bear the history of these documents in mind, for the world will probably hear of them again,—the sooner, perhaps, for their antecedents being partially forgotten.

Two Millions. By William Allen Butler. (Low & Co.)—Firkin is a Merchant-Prince of the United States,—and he has two millions of money. He then adopts a daughter, owhere a d

It is from this fuliginous interior, of course, that Rachel is driven by the coarse and cruel merchant. How he is brought to repentance, and she to for-tune, the curious reader will know by perusing the

sequel.

The Triumph of Steam; or, Stories from the Lives of Watt, Arkeright and Stephenson. By the Author of 'Our Eastern Engine,' &c. (Griffith & Farran.)

—In this little volume, two or three intelligent children act as the marionettes of biography and science:— that is to say, they state problems, which are solved by a well-informed and voluble aunt. Thus, before the conversations close, we know all about James Watt, Richard Arkwright and George Stephenson.

On a Uniform System of Weights, Measures, and Coins, for all Nations. By H. Hennessy. (Bell & Daldy.)—This is a tract published by the International Association, and is mostly on the history of the great French Survey.

The Great Comet of 1858; its History and Telescopic Appearances. (Hardwicke.)—A well-written and very short tract: just what many persons

Loyal Heart; or, the Trappers. By Gustave Amiard. Translated by William Robson. (Routledge & Co.)-M. Gustave Amiard, as Mr. Robson sets forth in an introductory notice, lived a nomade life for many years among the Indian tribes on the American prairies. He became an adopted son in their wigwams, fought with them, participated in their politics, hunted the bison, was a thorough Audubon in his wanderings, was twice fastened to the stake of torture, was for fourteen months a slave among the Patagonians, escaped "by miracle," explored alone the dismal forests of Brazil; and was, by turns, a squatter, hunter, trapper, and miner,—traversing the continent from the Cordillera summits to the coast. In the shape of a story, then, it is to be assumed that he relates his own adventures; but that he has mixed them with a considerable portion of romance is what most readers except schoolboys may not unre ably believe. There is a prologue entitled 'The Accursed.' The entire table of contents is drawn up with a view to the most intense melo-dramatic effect. However—setting this effect. However—setting this question aside— the book is charmingly thrilling in its variety of battles, hair-breadth scapes, horrors, and dramatic tableaux. Sundry love episodes lighten the long succession of masculine vicissitudes among the wild men, wild beasts, and wild landscapes of the great American interior.

The Chancellor's Chaplain; or, Self-Sacrifice. By the Rev. Erskine Neale, M.A. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)—'The Chancellor's Chaplain' forms one volume of "The Run and Read Library," a series in which it is difficult to distinguish between original works and reprints. It is a story in which the principal personages are clergymen, the turn-ing-point being the grant of a good living by a Lord Chancellor to a long-struggling curate, whose moment of triumph is his moment of sacrifice, for he makes over the preferment to a still more necessitous friend. Mr. Nesle states in a Preface that not a few of the incidents described in his tale are reminiscences, although care has been taken, by the variation of names and localities, to draw no portraits which might be recognized. The fault of the book is, that its interest is too exclusively ecclesiastical. It is all about bishops, archdeacons, and incumbents, - the apparent object being, after the circulation of an ordinary moral, to vindicate the provincial clergy, to complain of the injustice under which they suffer, and to set forth how their merits may go unrewarded. There is, no doubt, much truth in the picture, although

it suggests a somewhat tame story.

True to the Last; or, Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea.

By the Author of 'I've been Thinking.' (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)-To all appearance, this is a reprint from America. The story begins, of course, with peril, and closes amid a cluster of wedding groups. It is nicely written, has a proper ton and is constructed upon the New-World principle of legitimate romance.

Laid by, does not necessarily mean forgotten, as some olds and ends of periodicals, as well is proved by a pair of volumes of verse, which we notice the last among the rhymes and roundelays of appended to these lists, and so passed on to the

1858. A handsome-looking book of *Poems* by William Tidd Matson (Groombridge & Sons), incorporates an earlier volume by its author, which, he says, was praised in the reviews, and sold well.—Eighty additional pieces, however, are in this new volume : we do not think them good, well-meant though they be, and some of them smoothly constructed. Their author, moreover, is afraid that he shall not be able to write much better-should he write any more-since his preface announces that he is about to enter the Church, and shall have small time and energy for aught save its duties .- The Christiad; and other Poems (Madden) is by Mr. Beasley, Author of 'The Abbey.' Here—borrowing a title already taken by Henry Kirke White—after thinking it "necessary to tell my reader that every book is to be accepted at its worth in simple English," the author of 'The Abbey' "swings slowly" on his way—in one note poking at the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon (with a corroborating quotation from the Athenaum), in another lecturing the Author of 'Aurora Leigh,'—and in his own person breaking out into inquiries like this,-

Oh sweetest Shakspeare, noblest Spenser, where, Oh where is hid your music?

So far aloft, we venture to reply—that not an echo of a note thereof has got into 'The Christiad.'
The Post-Office Directory (Kelly & Co.) has made

its vast appearance on our table, accompanied by an excellent map of London, coloured in districts, and mounted on a roller .- A fifth edition of M. A. Schimmel Pennnick's Select Memoirs of Port-Royal omes to us, in three handsome volumes, from the Messrs. Longmans,—from whose press we have also received the Rev. Mr. Riddle's Outlines of Scripture History,—a second edition of Mr. Simcox's translation of Telemachus.—John Halifax, Gentleman, is added to the Messrs. Hurst & Blackett's "Standard Library."—The elder Disraeli's Calamities of Authors, making the fourth volume of his collected works, has appeared from the press of Messrs. Routledge. From the same house we have also republications of Mr. Cupples's Two Frigates,—A Lady's Captivity among the Chinese Pirates, translated from the French of Mdlle. Loviot, by Amelia B. Edwards,—and Mr. Mechi's How to Parm Profitably.—Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. have reprinted The Town, by Mr. Leigh Hunt,—also, Lectures and Addresses on Literary and Social Topics, by the Rev. F. W. Robertson,—and The Parent's Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction.—Hanvoorth is reprinted by Messrs. J. W. Parker & Son from 'Fraser's Magrazine.'—The of his collected works, has appeared from the press W. Parker & Son from 'Fraser's Magazine.'-The following republications may also be passed on to the reader:—Tales from 'Blackwood,' Vol. III. (Blackwood & Sons), -The Ladies of Bever Hollow, by the Author of 'Mary Powell' (Bentley). From the same publisher a second edition of Polehampton's Memoirs,—and a new edition of My Literary Life, by Mary Russell Mitford,—Mrs. Gore's Banker's Wife, and the same writer's Peers and Parvenus (Knight & Son),-the Rev. Mr. Cobbold's Margaret Catchpole (Simpkin), - Sir Aubrey De Vere's Historical Dramas,—and Mr. E. J. Chapman's Song of Charity (Pickering), — Musings in Many Moods, by J. B. Rogerson, a collection of fugitive pieces in rhyme (Partridge & Co.),—Sketches of London Life and Character, edited by Albert Smith (Dean & Son),—from whom we have also a baby's book, Royal Punch and Judy, —A Short Handbook of Comparative Philology, by Hyde Clarke, D.C.L. (Weale),—and Mrs. Ed-monds's True Stories for Children (Tallant & Co.). The works which come next are in second editions :- Midnight Scenes and Social Photographs, by Shadow (Houlston & Wright), — A Dream: Beauty in Truth; or, Sermons in Stones (Partridge), -The Topography and Climate of Aspley Guise, by Dr. Williams (Richards),-and Dr. Hume's Co dition of Liverpool (Whittaker & Co.)-In third editions, we have before us Mr. Pardon's Faces in the Fire (James Blackwood), -Baron von Andlau's Key to the German Language (Law), — Mr. G. Tate's Treatise on Hysterical Affections (Churchill), Mrs. Gaskell's Memoirs of Charlotte Bronte (Smith, Elder & Co.) have reached a fourth edition .-

reader:—such as the yearly volumes of The Leisure Hour and Sunday at Home,—also The Family Friend and Family Economist—The Monthly Flower Garden, twelve small cards, with the flowers of the month and a poetical description,—Reward Pictures (both from the Christian Knowledge Society). — Geme of Art in Miniature (Ordish), being pretty photographic pictures mounted on strips of card as passage-finders in books.—Of serials in progress we have, as the latest numbers yet issued,—Part XIV. of Mr. Thackeray's Virginians (Bradbury & Evans),-Part XVIII. of Mr. Lever's Davenport Dunn (Chapman & Hall),-Part I. of Macleod's Dunn (Chapman & Hall),—Part 1. of Macieous Dictionary of Political Economy (Longman),—Part II. of The Gallery of Nature, by the Rev. Thomas Milner (Chambers),—Part XIV. of The Comprehensive History of England, and Part VIII. of A Comprehensive History of India (Blackie & Son),—Part VII. of Bree's History of Ferns (Groom-Part VIX) of Long's History of Ferns (Groom-Part VIX) Part LXXXII. of Lowe's History of Ferns (Groom-bridge & Sons), — Part VIII. of Tyas's Wild Flowers of England (Houlston & Wright),—Part III. of Gosse's British Seu-Anemones (Van Voorst), -and Part XIV. of The English Bible (Allan).

The Almanacs and Year-Books not yet announced consist of The British Almanac and Companion (Knight & Co.),—De la Rue's Red-Letter Diary and Improved Memorandum Book—The Physician's, Surgeon's Visiting List, by F. S. Haden (Smith & Co.),—Art-Union of London Almanac in a pocketbook,—The Weather Almanac, by O. Whistlecraft (Simpkin),—Rees's Diary (Longman),—Deane's Rlustrated Almanack,—The Protestant Dissenters' Almanack (Kent & Co.),—The Bolton and Hertfordshire Almanacs.—On card and sheets, De la Rue, Pollard and Vacher's Calendars and Almanacks —Blackwood's Shilling Scribbling Diary,—and Julius Hall's Indicator and Almanack for 1859.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS,

Adoock's Engineer's Pocket-Book, 1899, 12mo. 62 ream tunk.
Ashford's London, Past, Fresent, and Puture, post 870, 52, 6d. el.
Bate's (Capt. W. T.) Memoir, by Baillis, fe. 870, 52, 6d. el.
Bate's (Capt. W. T.) Memoir, by Baillis, fe. 870, 52, ed. el.
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Brock's Home Memories; or, Echose of a Mother's Voice, 52, el.
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Brock's Horistmac Eve; or, the Sympathies of Life, fismo, 22, 6d.
Burke's Dict, of Peerage and Baronetage, state-clit. royal 870, 522, ed.
Burke's Dict, of Peerage and Baronetage, state-clit. royal 870, 522, ed.
Cambridge Essaya, by Members of the University, 1856, 870, 75, 6d.
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Chambers's Journal, Vol. 12, Now State, Port Joseph Collecter, 1856, 870, 75, 6d.
Chambers's Journal, Vol. 12, Now Horner, with Supplement, 1853–1856, 2 vols. 870, 534, ed.
Crowe's Chosts and Pamily Legends, post 870, 185, 6d.
Crowe's Chosts and Pamily Legends, post 870, 185, 6d.
Penton's Memory; a Story of a Leung Dream, fe. 870, 28, 6d.
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Prictall's Bhanavar: a Romantic Poem, 450, 128, ed.
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Godden Year, by the Author of "Marian Palconer," fe. 870, 38, 6d.
Hengstenbers's Christology of Old Teak, Vols. 3 and 4, 870, 218, ed.
Heckson's Musical Giff from an Old Prick, Vols. 3 and 4, 870, 218, ed.
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Hunt's Town, it

SONG,-"ACROSS THE SEA,"

I walk'd in this lonesome evening, And who so sad as I, When I saw the young men and maidens Merrily passing by?

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21

T

To thee, my Love, to thee—
So fain would I come to thee!
While the ripples fold upon sands of gold,
And I look across the sea.

I stretch out my hands, who will clasp them?
I call, thou repliest no word:
O why should heart-longing be weaker
Than the waving wings of a bird!
To thee, my Love, to thee—
So fain would I come to thee!
For the tide's at rest from east to west,
And I look across the sea.

There's joy in the hopeful morning,
There's peace in the parting day,
There's sorrow with every lover
Whose true-love is far away.
To thee, my Love, to thee—
So fain would I come to thee!
For the water's bright in a still moonlight,
As I look across the sea.

W. A.

PREFACES AND DEDICATIONS.

LOOKING into the box of books just sent down from London to the Country Book Club, of which I am a member, I am reminded of my having pryed into a similar box nearly forty years ago. I was a little child then, and the literary consignment had come down by the coach to my father's house,—all new books for himself and some neighbours. There were several folios: most of the volumes were clad in homely drab-coloured boards, with white paper labels on the backs. There were the "works" of some author in large quarto, which I suspect were Peter Pindar's; and a huge life of some one with a portrait; and a set, probably of Magazines, solidly bound in brown leather with ribbed backs. They did not attract young folks like me, but rather gently warned them not to touch, unless their minds should happen to be prenaturely grave; their liking for story books or pictures quite sobered down by school discipline, with the ordinary propensity of young people to soil and dogsear. If, then, I lifted the cover of one unmanageable volume and glanced at the frontispiece, it was with no small degree of awe, and with a fear of being caught meddling with what beyond all doubt, and on the very first face of things could not concern a child

of things, could not concern a child.

Our book club's box is a very different thing. You cannot look into it without shading your eyes with your hands. With its crimson, green, gold, azure, scarlet, orange, purple, and pink bindings, the box looks like a tulip bed lying in the sun, or might be fancifully compared to a crowd of Belgravian footmen, seized by some tyrant in all their splendours, and cruelly consigned for slavery in a vessel's hold.

Clever titles appear to be in fashion now, and bid fair to return to the metaphorical ingenuity of the Commonwealth writers. Most people can remember the time when a Life of Smith was as sure to be called a Life of Smith, and to bear the words 'Smith's Life' upon the label at the back as anything in this world could be; but now I see you would only put Smith's name at the top, and call it a 'Life History' or a 'Soul's Struggle,' or something of that. Ah! well, I suppose I am already an antiquated person, with taste decidedly out of date: but there is one thing that strikes me on looking into these new volumes as a novelty, to which I am inclined to be reconciled. Not a solitary dedication can I find in any book in all the box: even prefaces seem to be fast on the decline,—a change I am more doubtful about,—for I find but one or two books with them, one being a weak tale in three volumes, prefaced by an address beginning "How do ye do, my public? fatter, eh! my public?" and going on in that strain.

I think it was the present Poet-Laureate who set the fashion, which the verse men have since

I think it was the present Poet-Laureate who set the fashion, which the verse men have since adopted, of appearing in the severe plainness of no preface or dedication. I would not willingly part with prefaces—not such as Cicero kept, at once short and wordy, always ready written, like the taking title-pages which Edmund Curll, bookseller, at the Dial and Bible, left to his sorrowing wife upon his supposed death-bed—invaluable titles in red and black letter, which "only wanted treatises wrote to

them," and in his bibliopolic eye were a sure provision for his family,—for all are agreed that prefaces should tell you something—why the author wrote the book, or at least why he imagines that he wrote it, and what was his precise design. There is no time saved by the eager haste of a reader who will open a History of Mankind, and start at once to read it all through. It would be better for him that there should be some prefatory matter, if it were but to whet his appetite by its dullness and cold formality: but in most prefaces the reader will be sensible of a certain cheerfulness of spirit, a subdued but jubilant tone, indicative of satisfaction over a labour ended, a pleasant contentinent, or an overweening faith in the value and importance of the work transparent through all its conventional humility, but not unpleasing to a meditative mind. I know that life is short, while art is long—that few writers go straight to the point, even when fairly embarked upon their journey,—that every day brings forth its crop of new books, all demanding to be read; but it is not well to be hurried.

Prefaces were great things in Johnson's days, but they wanted all the charm of the author's real presence. They were of a kind which savour somewhat of a fraud. A notion, fitted to that stately age, had gone abroad that "dignity" was essential to a preface as well as to a dedication, so that by a cold utilitarian division of literary labour the author and the prefacer were wholly put asunder. It was supposed that few men could write a preface well: it was a gift no more to be presumed in you, because you had written the book, than because you had performed Captain Barclay's famous feat. Johnson—as all readers of Boswell know—was continually called upon to hold one of these vicarious parleys with the reader, and he liked the task. To what the work treated of he was avowedly indifferent:-a Medical Dictionary - a Treatise on the Globes-an Introduction to the Game of Draughts—a Catalogue of Paintings—were equally fitted to his pompous sentences. Nor did he even desire to see the work he wrote of. "Sir," he says in a famous passage in Boswell, speaking of an author for whom he had performed this service, "I never saw the man, and never read the book. The bookseller wanted a preface to a Dictionary of Trade and Commerce: I knew what such a Dictionary should be, and I wrote a preface accordingly." Was this honest? was it fair towards the buyer, who had patiently read it through, supposing that he was really getting real glimpses of the author's self? Johnson defounded even the writing of delicities. defended even the writing of dedications for others, ascribing fabulous virtues to persons he knew nothing of. He was too proud and independent to write dedications for himself; but the temp tation of a task demanding unwonted magnilo quence blinded him. He would avowedly dedicate any book for any body "provided it were inno-cent"; and he even, as Boswell again tells us, de-dicated some Music for the German Flute to the Duke of York. Was it to please poor Goldy? The obsequious Boswell bought all these dreadful books—base treatises on trade, and such inelegant and uninviting subjects, for the mere sake of their pompous but precious introductions, until his purse was emptied; and he records a flattering remonstrance—"What an expense, Sir, do you put us to in buying books to which you have written Prefaces or Dedications .- Johnson. Why, I have dedicated to the Royal family all round .- Goldsmith. And perhaps, Sir, not one sentence of wit in a whole Dedication.—Johnson. Perhaps not, Sir." That was a daring remark: no other man then living could, have made it, even in jest; and gone away unrebuked. A preface may be short, but it must, I think, be the author's own composition. The preface to Goldsmith's immortal novel is but a dozen lines; but they are filled with the writer's good nature and simplicity, and could hardly have been written by any other hand. Since men began to write books, prefaces have

Since men began to write books, prefaces have borne a certain resemblance to each other; and it is curious sometimes to see how the young author and preface-writer repeats the notions of centuries ago, and dreams that they are his. The work which they introduce is the fruit of a few leisure

hours, or the amusement of some idle moments, stolen, bless you, from an employment quite alien from such business as this. I suppose that there is a fascination in such excuses which prevents the writer's perceiving that the reader does not care a fig whether they be true or not; or why should an accomplished writer, who published some Essays the other day, embody in their very title the fact that they were "written in the intervals of business"? If anything, I suppose they are likely to be the worse for it. How then can the announcement attract me to read or buy? A commoner species of literary affectation was the pretence, elaborately maintained by every kind of invention in the preface, that the author was drawn onward to receive his crown of fame wholly against his will, and in spite of the most strenuous and per-severing resistance. The humblest writer laid the whole blame of his appearance upon the officious persuasion of private admirers. He was compelled persuasion of private admirers. He was compensuate to publish, as Pope maliciously interpolated it, "by (hunger and) request of friends." A higher class of literary gentlemen never published at all; or, if they did, it was only to shield themselves from the rascality of booksellers, who having purloined and printed an imperfect copy, compelled them, much to their annoyance, to publish in self-defence a less ridiculous version. Poor Curll, them, much to their annoyance, to punish in seri-defence a less ridiculous version. Poor Curll, Pope's famous adversary, was in this way the scapegoat of his day. It is now known, beyond all doubt, that his "surreptitious" publication of Pope's Letters, of which Pope bitterly complained in canting advertisements, was simply the act of Pope himself, through Curll's convenient agency. The unfortunate bookseller was tricked on all sides by the poet and his agents—his money and "good bills" obtained in exchange for imperfect copies his stock seized—himself brought to the bar of the House of Lords for breach of privilege, and his name associated with knavish dealings for ever— and all for the sake of convincing the world that Mr. Pope had no hand in the business: for, in truth, even in those days, the excuse was become too hackneyed to be believed without some such too nackneyed to be beneved without some such extraordinary stimulus. Pope, therefore, did not scruple to complain in a solemn preface, now prefixed to all editions of his Letters, that an infamous method had been employed to obtain copies, and negotiations opened with people in necessities, and to deplore that the law provided no remedy for so creat and so crowing an exil. But he did not for great and so growing an evil. But he did not forget to tell the reader that the letters (which, as has been shown in the Athenœum, he had manufactured and elaborately doctored for publication) were "a proof of what were his real sentiments, as they flowed warm from the heart, and fresh from the occasion, without the least thought that ever the world should be witness to them. for which, according to their authors, we are indebted to these reguish publishers, would make an illustrious catalogue. It is amusing to mark in the letters of Gray the poet's maneuvres to escape the responsibility of Dodsley's publication of his famous 'Elegy,' and even to get some alterations inserted 'Elegy,' and even to get some alterations inserted, without doing violence to this fiction. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's celebrated Letters would never have reached the public but for unparalleled knavery of this kind. She herself never published anything. Scarcely one of Swift's publications, save his edition of Temple's Works, was ever acknowledged to be anything but booksellers' roguery, which the author—such was the negligence of friends—could not prevent, and was too dignified to complain of. not prevent, and was too dignified to complain of. Stolen manuscripts, all ready edited and prefaced, dropped into publishers' letter-boxes,—but some-times droll tricks were resorted to in order to obtain the "copy-money." Publishers understood this kind of thing too well to be nice about pillorying themselves in prefaces and "addresses from the bookseller," wherein they generally displayed a knowledge of the subject whereof the book discoursed, no whit inferior to their author's: but did coursed, no whit inferior to their author's; but did coursed, no whit interior to their authors; but did not scruple to avow that he—poor, persecuted gen-tleman — whom they had resolved, for the good of mankind, to drag into the broad daylight of renown, knew nothing of the matter,—had not corrected a sheet, or lent sanction or countenance to the transaction in any way. Though Waller's printer, after numerous editions, confesses at last

to have slightly shaken his illustrious author in that stoical resolve; and that, wearied with his publisher's importunity, he had at last given him leave to assure the reader that the poems which had been so long and so ill set forth under his name were now given as he first wrote them, and also to add some others: a dangerous admis-sion, which in those days might have confounded their author with the "herd of scribblers," an ideal their author with the "nerd of scribblers," an ideal body, which every writer was in the habit of scornfully repudiating. No less common, and equally transparent in its insincerity, is a kind of preface which succeeded this—and even to this day is frequently met with—the preface in which the author pretends to lay down the principles of art upon which works like his should be written. Tried by the canons laid down, the work they introduce is always perfect; but in most cases it is not difficult to perceive that the principles have been drawn from the work itself, and justify even its defects. The preface to Bishop Hurd's 'Dialogues' is a good example; but it must be admitted that French writers are the most audacious in this And who does not know the preface which way. And who does not allow a proper rates the public for preferring the author's best work to his worst; and insists, and proves to the author's own satisfaction, that the worst is the best,

and the public all wrong?

Dedications involve the somewhat hackneyed subject of Patronage, and carry us back to the days when Literature hung upon the favour of the great, and talked a cant about its miseries which is not now quite obsolete. The old pompous dedication is quite gone, except in Spain, I am told; where, within this century, a dedication to a duke would set forth tms century, a dedication to a duke would set forth his names, titles, and offices, sometimes to the extent of three entire pages and some lines of a fourth. The servility of Dryden's dedications is a commonplace in literary gossip. Old servile dedications, I find, frequently vanish in subsequent editions, the writer, I suppose, having spent the patron's money, and become ashamed of the matter. Cunning plans were resorted to of multiplying dedications by afficient or the common plans. dedications by affixing a different one to every division of the work. So Thomson's 'Seasons' has a dedication for each season, and Young's 'Night Thoughts' has no less than seven. Thomson, I think, recanted a dedication to a great man on a subsequent quarrel with him. D'Israeli tells us of a fraudulent author, who had a number of us of a readdinear author, who had a number of dedications printed, and bound up a different one with each presentation copy of his work, by which he obtained repeated fees. Spenser's sixteen dedicatory sonnets to the 'Faery Queen' have already been referred to. Otway boasted of being already been referred to. Otway boasted of being the first who made an epistle dedicatory to his bookseller,—adding that it was just, for he "paid honestly for the copy." I suppose this was a hint to patrons of his day—the spendthrift nobles of King Charles's Court—who sometimes got the dedication, but compelled the unfortunate poet to "call again" for his fee; for he had, I find, no insuperable objections to a courtly address. His immor-'Venice Preserved' is dedicated to the tal play of King's mistress, the Duchess of Portsmouth,— "when others," he says, "kept back, and shaded me from those royal beams, whose warmth is all I have or hope to live by, your noble pity and com-passion found me." But Otway's prefaces and dedi-cations were not always worldly wise; and in his cations were not always worldly wise; and in his prologues, which are a sort of preface and dedication of play to audience, he rated the pit well for its censoriousness and ignorance, calling his judges foos, bullies, fools, would-be wits, rule-and-rote critics, in a way that was hardly prudent.

Pope has the credit of having put an end to the old abject dedication, and inaugurated a better reign; but it should not, for truth's sake, be forgetten that Pope had foundations.

reign; but it should not, for truth's sake, be forgotten that Pope had found a more profitable
system of patronage, in getting subscriptions from
the great and wealthy of all parties, with which he
uilt up his Twickenham House and his Grotto,
and laid out his "quincunx," and planted his
"vines," — and afterwards sneered at literary
hacks and learned want. His generous dedication
of the light to Comments. of the Hiad to Congreve was a clever way of taking neutral ground in those times of stormy politics. But it is, nevertheless, true that the history of the independence of Literature begins

from his time. Johnson said the booksellers were from his time. Johnson said the booksellers were "generous, liberal men," and Boswell adds, in a passage oft-quoted and seldom questioned, that "he considered them as the patrons of literature"; but in such language there is again a manifest exaggeration. The virtue of Otway's bookseller is all they can—and all they need lay claim to—he "paid honestly for the copy." Johnson rejoiced over the decline of patronage. Johnson rejoiced over the decline of patronage; but it was hardly consistent with this, I think, to attack Lord Chesterfield, on his complimenting his Dictionary, to boast that he was so little accus-tomed to favours from the great that he knew not well how to acknowledge the praises,—to remind the peer of having waited in his ante-chambers, and never received an act of assistance, though he afterwards remembered ten guineas,—or even to fling in his panegyrist's teeth the remark that he did not expect such treatment, for he never had a patron before.

Dedications, when you meet with them now-a-days, are generally addressed to authors' friends or relatives; and frequently take the form of an epistle, beginning off-hand "My dear Emily"; but sometimes we have a pretentious simplicity, bor-rowed, I suppose, from French tombstones,—mere inscriptions, such as "To my Mother," or to some other relative standing alone in a field of white margin. Occasionally you meet with a dedication to the memory of somebody deceased, whose name you are left to guess from initials; and sometimes you find the work dedicated "To my Wife," with a public declaration of the lady's many virtues. All this is perhaps harmless; but it would be better to allow the system of dedicating—now become so very feeble and spiritless—tō die out and be for-gotten. W. M. T.

PROPOSED DANTE FESTIVAL AT FLORENCE.

Newington Butts, Surrey.
THE proposal to celebrate a Festival at Florence, in 1859, in honour of Dante, suggested, as it is said, by the German Schiller Festival to be held next year, however praiseworthy it may be in conception, is certainly not well timed. 1859 has no correspondence with any important event bearing on the life of Dante; it has no claim whatever to be selected for a Dante commemoration. If we reckon time by decades, it will be the 57th from the Battle of Campaldino, fought June 11, 1289, a memorable occasion certainly at the time, but one that is better forgotten than remembered, or remembered only to contrast it with the progress in the social condition of Italy which has since been

In 1860 we shall have the 56th decade from the date of the 'Divina Commedia,' but not from the period of its composition, which extended through

twenty years, and perhaps more.

The year in which a great festival in honour of Dante should be held, not in Florence only, but throughout all Italy, is 1865, the sixth centenary from his birth. On this occasion Italy would do itself honour, and show that it was worthy to be the country of the greatest of Italian poets, by making this year a marked epoch in its annals

Florence would, of course, be the scene of the and national festival, and hither would the other Italian cities send their deputations; but there is no reason why these should not each and all have their local commemorations. What object could be more worthy than this, of eliciting that spirit of patriotism which Dante so desired to promote, that unity of heart and mind in the good cause of national advancement, based on sound moral principles and a righteous self-government of indivi-duals, without which no nation can become great, no people can command esteem? Rome, Venice, Milan, Turin, Genoa, Naples, and Palermo, with Milan, Turin, Genoa, Naples, and Palermo, with the other cities of Italy, might on this occasion show their sentiments of veneration and love for the great poet, philosopher and statesman, without awakening the fears or jealousies of their governments, or giving cause for uneasiness to the stranger who watches over them. For the cause of good government, both individually and collectively, which would be honoured on this occasion in the person of Dante, should ever meet with encourage-ment from the ruling powers, who, on Christian

principles, can have no other object in view than the prosperity of those whom they govern. But it would be chiefly as the great Christian poet and philosopher that Dante would receive this sixth centenary ovation, and in honouring him the Italians would be honouring themselves and their rulers also.

Throughout the entire length and breadth of the Italian peninsula, from Monte Veso to Cape Passaro, one spirit should possess the Italian people on this occasion, and they should show that in Dante they are all united.

The month for this demonstration would be May:

The month for this demonstration would be May: Dante was born in May, but on what day of the month is uncertain,—it was during the first half of the month, at least such is my own opinion, arrived at by certain inductive processes; this, however, is of no great moment, as the festivities would occupy a week. The ninth might be selected as the grand day, nine being with Dante a favourite and was the consecuency of the processing the proce grand day, nine being with Dante a favourite and mysterious number—especially when put for persons: thus he regarded Beatrice as "un nove," and surely he may be considered as one himself. A more appropriate period of the year could not be desired, and at Florence it would be truly a delightful occasion. By 1865 the proposed façade of the Duomo might be completed, as also that of Sta. Croce—these alone would make the year memorable; and the colossal statue of the poet, to be erected in the Piazza del Duomo, would on that occasion be inaucurated with becoming solemnity. The year the Piazza dei Duomo, would on that occasion be inaugurated with becoming solemnity. The year 1865, therefore, has especial claims for being re-served as the year of the great commemoration of the immortal Dante, and in his own fair Florence: none other so propitious could be named, as no place could be better selected for the crowning ceremony than in front of the then to be completed façade of the Duomo, looking towards his own "b San Giovanni." H. C. Barlow, M.D. San Giovanni."

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

OUR WERKLY GOSSIP.

THE President of the Royal Society has appointed Lord Wrottesley, General Sabine, Sir R. Murchison, Mr. Gassiot, Dr. Whewell and Mr. Bell, Vice-Presidents of the Society.

Poets and rhymers begin to ask us, instead of asking the directors of the Crystal Palace, when the names of the three judges of the Burns Poems are to be made known. "As an intending competitor for the Burns Prize at the Crystal Palace," are to be made known. "As an intending competitor for the Burns Prize at the Crystal Palace," says one, "will you permit me to ask, when the names of the judges are to be announced, as I, in common with others I presume, am anxious to know who are to be the awarders of the prize, before sending in the poem. Allow me also to suggest, that the directors of the Crystal Palace make a great mistake in demanding the copyright of the prize poem, without permitting the author also to reprint it after a certain time. Poets are growing wiser now-a-days, and they do not sell their copyrights absolutely so much as they used to do; and no poet worthy of the subject on any such terms. The sum of 504, is not a large offer for a poem which, if good, will most likely, under the circumstances, sell 20,000 copies, especially if it have a name as well as the highest merit."

In a letter communicated to the Royal Society from M. Lamont of Munich, he states that he has ascertained that the magnetic lines of horizontal

ascertained that the magnetic lines of horizontal intensity move on the Continent from south-west to north-east, making an angle of about 20° with the meridian, that is, in a direction coinciding with the lines of declination. The lines of inclination seem to move in the same direction, and the motion of the lines of declination will probably coincide with the lines of horizontal intensity. M. Lamont adds, that the new survey of the British Islands will offer an opportunity of testing the correctness of his formulæ

In another letter from M. Kneil of Vienna, also communicated to the Royal Society, he states that communicated to the Royal Society, he states that he has just returned from a journey through the Danubian Principalities, and along the southwest and north coasts of the Black Sea. His principal object has been to make magnetic observations, and to determine more accurately than has been hitherto done, the geographical positions, as well as the magnetic declination, of many points of the

We are reminded by our short notice of the late Dr. Peacock of a play on words which caused amusement at the time when the old and new systems of mathematics were struggling together at Cambridge. The old party, who were considered by their opponents as stupidly endeavouring to resist improvement, and as almost in second childhood, wished to retain the language of fluxions, in which the fluxion is denoted by a point placed over a letter. The new party, who were in their turn regarded as French philosophers, anarchists, and infidels, desired to introduce the language of Leibnitz, in which the same fluxion, called differential, was denoted by a d placed before the er. Accordingly, the new party called the old party dotards; and the old party called the new party deists. All was done in very good humour, which the coincidence of double meanings tended to increase

Our readers may perhaps remember that some time ago the University of Cambridge was startled by an examiner, who set questions implying that one magnitude could be divided by another,—that the Senate unanimously ousted the examiner, -and that the implication was considered to be declared falsa in philosophia et ad minus erronea in fide. We were, therefore, rather surprised, but much pleased, to see the following question in an examination-paper recently given at St. John's College:

"'Divide 22,557 days, 20 hours, 20 minutes, 48 seconds, by 57 minutes, 12 seconds." It was also It was also asked to explain the fraction-

3l. 18s. 8d. 6l. 12s. 9d.

and to take that fraction of 104 yards, 9 inches. It will be our business to record the progress of arithmetical principles as it comes to us from time to time. And we shall also ask, what reparation is to be made to the examiner who was declared a heretic for saying that the thing could be done, which the haberdasher's apprentice does every day of his life? We happen to know that his Cambridge prospects were completely destroyed by the vote of the Senate.

Messrs. A. & C. Black have published a Supplement to their 'General Atlas of the World,' seven new maps. These are, North America, with especial care bestowed on the Gold Fields of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, -South America, with the recent territorial revolutions America, with the recent territorial revolutions indicated, — Sweden and the Baltic Sea, — East Indian Archipelago, with Burmah and Siam,— Oceana, with the South Sea Islands,—a Chart of the Atlantic, with the telegraphic routes and lines,—and, finally, a Plan of Dr. Livingstone's route across the interior of Africa. All these maps are

across the interior of Africa. All these maps are clearly drawn and plainly printed and coloured.

Byron's poem of 'Childe Harold,' Mr. Greenwood's tale, 'The Path of Roses,' and Mr. Low's selection of 'Poems of the West,' are three additions to be made to the toy books of the week. The Byron volume, from the Albemarle Street press, is a wonder of embellishment and binding—all save worthy of the great room itself. Mr. Greenwood's a wonder or emocilisament and binding—all save worthy of the great poem itself. Mr. Greenwood's tale (Clarke) was scarcely worth the pains bestowed on its adornment. The binding is very pretty with its gold and green, and its wreath of roses. Mr. Low's venture aims at blending use with beautygiving memoirs of the American poets, as well as hints from artists how their pictures in words ought to look in fact.

The following note must be added to the letter of which it is a supplement :-

"In a communication to your No. of Novem ber 6, I adverted to the strong affection entertained by members of the University of Cambridge towards their colleges. In Cowley's 'Elegia Dedicatoria ad illustrem Academiam Cantabrigiensem I remark these lines, expressive of the same feeling:

O mihi jucundum Grantæ super omnia nomen!
O penitus toto corde receptus amor!
O pulchræ sine luxu sedes, vitseque heatæ,
Splendida paupertas, ingenuusque decor!
O chara anta ellas, magnorum nomine regum
Digna domus! Trini nomine digna Dei!

-To these I may properly, at the present time,

subjoin the following, which occur in a later part of the same elegy:—

Tu quoque in hoc terræ tremuisti, Academia, motu, (Nec frustra) atque ædes contremuêre tuæ; (Nec frustra) atque edes contremuêre trontremuêre ipase pacate Palladis aroes; Et timuit fulmen laurea sancta novum. h! quanquam ifatum, pestem hanc aver Nec saltem bellis ista licere, velit!

"A. B. G."

Mr. Harward's Library has been recently dispersed by Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson at high prices, as will be seen by the following quotations:
—Abbot's 'England's Parnassus,' 31. 3s.; fine -Abbot's 'England's Parnassus, copies of the first six editions of Walton's 'Angler, 421.; collection of Old Ballads with the plate of the Swimming Lady, 4l. 6s.; a curious Manuscript on Alchemy, 22l.; Brandt's 'Stultifera Naves,' 8l. 2s. 6d.; 'Cokain's Poems,' 4l. 10s.; 'Scourge of Folly,' by Davies, 9l. 12s.; Dibdin's 'Biblioma large paper, with illustrations, 50l.; 'The Decameron,' on large paper, 17l.; 'Bibliographical Tour,' 20l.; 'Tour in the Northern Counties,' 19l. 15s.; Publications of the Chetham Society, 141.; 'Booke of Faytes of Armes and of Cheval-144.; 'Booke of Faytes of Armes and of Chevalraye,' by Caxton, with some leaves in fac-simile, 32l. 0s. 6d.; Dugdale's 'Monasticon,' large paper, 55l.; 'Durfey's Pills,' 4l. 9s. 6d.; 'Bibliotheca Grenvilliana,' large paper,' 10l. 15s.; 'Schoole of Slovenrie,' 8l. 18s. 6d.; Dekker's 'English Villanies,' 5l. 12s. 6d.; Eden's 'History of Travaile in the West and East Indias,' 7l. 10s.; Works of Gascoigne, 6l. 12s. 6d.; a curious collection of Drawings illustrative of Hindoo Mythology and History, 53l.; 'Milton's Poems,' first collected edition, 5l. 15s.; set of the Lee Priory Publications, 25l.; 'The Mastive, or Young Whelpe,' 6l. 6s.; Johnson's 'Lives of the most famous Highwaymen,' 11l. 15s.; Quarles's 'Divine Poems,' 13l. 13s.; Pugin's 'Architectural Sketches and Drawings during a Tour in Normandy,' very interesting, 63.; Voltaire's 'La Pucelle,' translated into English, 71. 17s. 6d.; some curious Tracts printed during 7l. 17s. 6d.; some curious Tracts printed during the Civil Wars, 8l. 15s.; 'Whitney's Emblemes,' 10l. 15s.; Stowe's 'London,' best edition, 15l.; First Folio of Shakspeare, with verses in fac-simile, 59l.; a fine copy of the second impression, 23l.; a large copy of the third, with the titles of the additional plays, 51l. 9s.; another copy with portrait and verses in separate leaf, 31l. 10s.; a fine copy of the factory of t and verses in separate leaf, 31l. 10s.; a fine copy of the fourth edition, 10l.; total, 3,067l. 16s. 6d. At the same house, during the past week, a copy of the first edition of Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs,

wanting the last leaf, produced 84l.!

Dr. Bright, whose death we briefly announced last week, was educated for the medical profession at Edinburgh, where he took his degree in 1812. Early in his career he settled in London, and was appointed Physician to Guy's Hospital, of which institution he was consulting physician at the time of his death. He was also for many yes connected with the medical school of the hospital as Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine. author of many works and papers on Medicine, the latter published chiefly in Guy's Hospital Reports; but his great reputation as a pathologist depended on his having been the first to demonstrate the existence of a peculiar condition of the renal organs, constituting a disease which has been named after its discoverer, Morbus Brightii. It is not often that the practical physician is rewarded with such a result of his scientific labours, and Dr. Bright reaped the benefit of his exertions, both in the great renown which his discovery gave him, and the large practice which he acquired as a conse-quence. The Institute of France bestowed on him quence. The Institute of France restowed on him the Monthyon medal, as an indication of its appre-ciation of his great merit. Besides his numerous medical works, Dr. Bright was author of a volume of 'Travels in Hungary.' The University of of 'Travels in Hungary.' The University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of D.C.L. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and held the appointment of Physician Extraordinary to the Queen. Dr. Bright was an unobtrusive, amiable man, and was greatly esteemed by his professional brethren, and much beloved by a large circle of private friends.

We are informed that Frau Dirichlet, sister of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, died suddenly on the 1st of this month, at Göttingen, where her husband was one of the Professors at the University.

The rare fossil and mineral collection of André Dumont, late Geological Professor and Rector of the University of Liége, is, we hear, to be disposed of. It consists, we understand, of no less than 21,700 specimens, many of them of great beauty, all revised and classified by Dumont himself. The opportunity is an unusual one, and well worth the ntion of such of the scientific institutions of our large cities as may be desirous either of forming new collections or of enriching already existing

Australian papers bring us news of a new exploration of that continent. The 'Register,' under date of Oct. 11, gives the following details:— "Major Warburton, the Commissioner of Police, who has already distinguished himself by his energy and caution in travelling in previously unexplored portions of the country, has been appointed to the command of the expedition. The Major left town on Saturday week by the Marion for Port Augusta and the northern exploring camp, to relieve Mr. Babbage of the command of the expedition. Major Warburton will, we believe, continue the northern explorations with as many of Mr. Babbage's party as may feel inclined to join him. He is accompanied by Sergeant-Major Hall and another police-trooper, and also by Baker, one of Mr. Babbage's men, who returned to town a short time since with Harris. The appointment of second in command has been offered to Mr. Charles Gregory, and accepted by that gentleman. Major Warburton will probably fix his depôt on the river discovered by Messrs. Stuart and Forster, and thence explore the country in all directions north of that place to, at least the boundary of the colony. On his return he will endeavour to connect by some practicable route across the bed of Lake Torrens, which it is believed exists, the waters discovered by Parry to the west of Mount Serle, with the permanent water laid down by Stuart and Forster in lat. 29 deg. 30 min. and long. 137 deg. If stock can be taken to the new country across the head of Lake Torrens, the difficulty of proceeding through Swinden's Desert to the north of Port Augusta, and thence along the western shores of the lake, will be avoided. Mr. Charles Gregory, who is referred to above as Major Warburton's second in command, is a brother of Mr. A. C. Gregory, the gentleman who was recently sent out by the New South Wales Government with a party in search of Leichhardt, and who made his way across from Kennedy's Victoria River to Lake Torrens. His brother went up to Mr. Babbage's camp with some horses and equipments purchased by the South Australian Government, and in returning to Adelaide was met by Major Warburton, and accepted the offer made to him. With regard to the discoveries of Messrs. Stuart and Forster, we may say that two or three months since they started from Mount Eyre, upon the eastern side of Lake Torrens, near Port Augusta, accompanied by a black and four horses, with a very scanty stock of provisions, on a private exploring expedition to the north and northwest of Swinden's Country. They crossed over to the west of Lake Torrens, and for six weeks or two months nothing whatever was heard of them. Their friends, believing they had not taken with them provisions enough to sustain life for that length of time, and supposing the country into which they had penetrated to be an inhospitable and a waterless desert, had almost given them up for lost, when, to the joy of all interested in their enterprise, they turned up at Fowler's Bay, a harupon the coast close to the south-western boundary of the province. They had forced their way to lat. 28 deg. 30 min. S., and long. 133 deg. E. The full particulars of their discoveries have not yet publicly transpired, but we are in a position to say they are of considerable importance. About twenty-five miles to the north of Mr. Babbage's camp on the Elizabeth they found a considerable extent of permanent water, and to the north-west of that again a large river was discovered, with fish in it, running in an easterly and westerly direction, with numerous tributary creeks running north and south. The explorers also discovered what they believe to be the real Lake Torrens,—a large inland sea, probably receiving the drainage of the Victoria River discovered by Captain Stokes on

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SIXTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION of CABINET PICTURES and WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, the Contri-butions of British Artists, IS NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 199, Pall Mall—Admission, la; Catalogue, 6d. Open from Ten till Five.

GREAT GLOBE—CHINA and the INDIAN WAR.—The WAR in CHINA.—DIORAMA of the SCENES of the INDIAN MUTINY and the Advance of the British Armies, with descriptive Lectures at Is, half-past 5, 6, and half-past 5 octock. Tour of the Control of the Control

Mr. ALBERT SMITH'S CHINA.—ARRANGEMENTS for CHRISTMAS.—The New Entertainment will be given on Monday Afternoon and Evening, Dec. 27—Puesday Afternoon and Evening, Dec. 28—Wednesday Afternoon and Evening, Dec. 28—Wednesday Afternoon and Evening, The State of the Stat

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—WEDNESDAY, December 29, Mr. P. T. BARNUM'S ADDRESS (with Pictorial Illustrations) On the SCIENCE of MAKING MONEY, also an original definition of HUMBUG, commencing at Eight precisely.—Stalls, ac., Balcony, Seats, 2s., Body of Hall and Gallery, la. Tekets at Chappell & Co. s., Bitchelt's Royal Library; Cramer & Benle's, Jullies's; Julies's, Julies's, July Chappell's Royal Library; Cramer & Banle's, Jullies's; July Chappell's Co. s., and at the Hall, &c.

LONDON CRYSTAL PALACE, REGENT CIRCUS, OXFORD STREET, and GREAT PORTLAND PLACE,—Now Open, AD-MISSION FREE.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION. — Patron, H.R. HIGHNESS THE PRINCE CONSORT.—Instructive Lectures and elegant entertainments, for both Young and Old, have been prepared for the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Dissolving Yiews, illustrating the Marrellous Exploits of DON QUIXOTE.—Wonders of the Microscope.—Lectures on the Philosophy of Magic, on the new Chemical Light, and on the Humorous Melodies of Old England. — Juvenile Amusements Scientifically demonstrated.—Splenddidy ornamented CHRISTMAS TREE.—Citts for the Juveniles from the WHEEL of PORTUNATUS.—New Phantasmagor, and Charles of the Chemical Light Control of the Chemical Light Chemical Light Chemical Light Chemical Light Chemical Chemic

Dr. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 3. Tichbourne Street, opposite the Haymarket, Open Daily (for Gentlemen only).—
Lectures at Three, Half-past Four, and Eight o'clock, on important and interesting topics in connexion with Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology (vide Programmes). Admission, iz.—
Dr. Kahn's Vinne Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, and Pathology for the Author, on the receipt of twelve stamps.

The Radical Theory in Chemistry. By John J. Griffin. (Griffin & Co.)—Chemistry, as a science, has two sides: the one, a definite, certain practical side founded on the observation of facts and laws, the most certain amongst the inductive sciences; the other, a speculative, imaginary, inconclusive, and unsatisfactory side. This, to be sure, is true of and unsatisfactory side. This, to be sure, is true of all sciences, but of some more than others,—of the less certain than the more certain,—and it is a fact that has recently grown up in Chemistry. The reason is, that Chemistry has within the last few years increased its facts so largely by entering the domain of organic substances,—thus rendering new theories necessary,—that there has not been time given for the acceptance of general theories. time given for the acceptance of general theories by those competent to decide. Thus it is we have a rush of candidates for immortal renown in classification laws for the arranging of new facts. rush of candidates for immortal renown in estab-Amongst these candidates is the author of this book. We do not know that in every easy when We do not know that in every case when a man broaches a new theory, or brings forward a strange doctrine, that we ought to ask him who he is before examining his statements. Nevertheless, as life is short and art is long, and the critic must go to press, and a genius can afford to wait for a reputation, we are always more disposed to examine a statement made by a man of tried character and repute than that of a neophyte. Now, in the school of Chemistry in which we were taught, and which still embraces, we believe, Faraday, Graham, Brande, Liebig, and Hoffman, certain facts of Chemistry were arranged into general facts or theories which served, at any rate, if they have done no better, as a most successful ground nave done no better, as a most successful ground of attack upon the organic world, and have gained for Chemistry the discoveries of which she is now so justly proud. Now, it is the object of Mr. Griffin's book to attack these facts and principles. He maintains they propagate fallacies for truths, and thereby obstruct the progress of science. Here they are, as put down by Mr. Griffin:—"That water contains only one atom of each of its two elements." elements." "That elementary atoms combine in

the north coast, and of various other northern por-and bases." That such things exist as: sesquioxids, polyatomic alcohols, and conjugated and polybasic acids." "That all salts are formed on the model of water." "That all compounds which contain azote are formed on the model of ammonia."-Now, these doctrines may be departing from our chemical schools; but we hope Mr. Griffin will excuse us if we say we cannot take his word for it. We have looked over his own theories and cannot say that we think, in any one case, he has been more successful than his predecessors. He should recollect that if there be six different ways of pronouncing a word, if we wish to be under-stood it is best to pronounce the word in the way in which people will understand us. He has brought forward no argument that would induce the chemical world to adopt his views rather than those which are now received. As he justly observes, his views rest on facts which nobody impugns; and this is the case with most erroneous theories,-the fallacy lies not in the fact, but the views. cannot, therefore, recommend Mr. Griffin's volume to the beginner in Chemistry; but to those who are more or less acquainted with the facts of organic Chemistry, Mr. Griffin's volume will afford interesting, if not instructive, reading. Agricultural Chemistry. By Alfred Simpson. (Routledge & Co.)—The great demand for books

on Agricultural Chemistry is a clear indication that the agricultural mind is alive to the bearing of chemical science on the growth of plants and the rearing of animals. This is, indeed, a hopeful sign, for it is just in proportion as we can duce food at little expense, that we can find time for the culture of Art and Science, and the development of those qualities of the mind that constitute our civilization. Mr. Simpson's book is recom-mended in a preface by Prof. Voelcker of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester; and as that gentleman must be regarded as an authority in such matters, we need say no more to gain for it a favourable reception. When we add, that it contains two hundred and forty pages of printed matter and several wood-cuts, and is sold for eighteenpence, we should think that every farmer, and farm-servant who can read, will become the possessor of it.

Principles and Rudiments of Botany. By C. R. W. Watkins Gent. (Partridge & Co.)—This book is either a very bad joke or something more melan-In either case, the work is one not demand-

ing criticism.

Short Lectures on Plants, for Schools and Adult Classes. By Elizabeth Twining. (Nutt.)—Miss Twining is well known in the botanical world for her 'Illustrations of the Families of Plants'; and in this work she further endeavours to make popular her favourite science. If Botany is not taught in our schools, it is not for the want of books That Botany is not successfully taught in the great majority of our schools, must, we fear, be admitted as a fact, and it appears that this arises from the want of teachers. Books on Botany are of no use in the hands of children, unless they are directed by persons who know how to use them, and know the plants they describe. The fundamental failure in teaching natural science in schools, has been the want of competent persons to teach. When school-masters undergo the same training for teaching Botany and Chemistry that they do for teaching Greek and Latin, then they will be competent to teach these sciences, but not before. Where Botany is not taught by competent teachers, Miss Twining's book will be found of great service in the hands of a judicious master and mistress, who might read the lectures to their pupils, illustrated with the specimens of which Miss Twining has given lists at the commencement of each lecture. would suggest also, that the maps on the distribu-tion of plants, given in Johnstone's 'Physical Atlas' might with advantage be consulted at the same time. In such a way this book might be made a good introduction to the more thorough study of Botany as a science.

The Illustrated Handbook of the British Plants. By Alexander Irvine. (Nelson.)—This is another British Flora, which, while aiming to supply the botanist with a pocket manual, is intended to give

a larger amount of information than is usual in such books. Above all, it is distinguished by a large number of woodcuts illustrative of orders, regree number of woodcuts illustrative of orders, genera and species. The woodcuts are, however, limited to certain special forms; nevertheless, they will be found useful as far as they go. The descriptions are more copious than in some of the smaller manuals, and, in every instance, the British distribution in latitude and height, in accordance with the results of Mr. H. C. Watson's researches, are given. It also contains an introduction, giving a resuma of the present state of duction, giving a résumé of the present state of botanical science, including the structure and physology of plants, and a well-written chapter on the geography of plants. There is also an original and valuable index, giving the derivation of all British genera, and definitions of many of the specific terms. The plants are named after the 'London Catalogue of Plants.'

ROYAL. - Dec. 18. - Sir Benjamin Brodie, Bart., President, in the chair.—The Lord Bishop of Ripon was elected a Fellow .- Prof. Owen gave a viva roce description of the principal features contained in a paper presented by him to the Society, 'On the Fossil Mammals of Australia, Part I., Description of a Mutilated Skull of a Carnivorous Mar-supial.'

Society of Antiquaries.—Dec. 16.—J. Bruce, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. W. H. Bayley was elected a Fellow.—Mr. G. Chapman exhibited an impression from a seal found at Ambelly, bearing the name and arms of Ichan Garnon.—The Director archibited. tor exhibited a fine spear-head, of bronze, from the bed of the Thames.—Mr. B. Le Vawdrey communicated an account of the discovery of Roman remains at Kinderton.—Mr. Wakeman exhibited sketches of a subterranean dwelling discovered at Lough Crew, Co. Meath. — The Director read notes 'On the Forgeries of Ancient and Medieval Works of Art.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Dec. 14.—Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read a paper, by Mr. R. F. Tomes, containing 'Notes on a Collection of Mammalia, made by Mr. Fraser at Gualaquiza.—Mr. Sclater communicated a paper 'On the Birds col-lected by Mr. Fraser in the Vicinity of Riobamba, in the Republic of Ecuador.' He enumerated in all sixty species of birds, and among them characterized six as new, under the following names:

— Troglodytes solstitialis, Catamenia homochroa, Chrysomitris melanops, Agriornis solitaria, Elainia griseigularis, and Elainia stictoptera.—Mr. Salmon exhibited the eggs of Baillon's Crake, taken from a nest in Cambridgeshire in the current year.—Mr. Holdsworth read a paper 'On Zoanthus Couchii, of Johnston.' The existence in our seas of a comof Johnston. The existence in our seas of a com-pound zoophyte, belonging to a group so essentially tropical as the Zoanthide, was first made known by Mr. R. Q. Couch, who obtained a small species from deep water, near the Cornish coast. It was subsequently described and figured in Dr. John-ston's 'British Zoophytes,' and has been since ston's 'British Zoophytes,' and has been since eagerly sought for, but apparently without success; or if captured its characters have not been positively recognized. There is reason, however, to believe that the original description was imperfect; and it is probable that specimens of a compound Polype, found by Mr. Barlee and others along our pothern coasts, and some lathy obtained by Mr. Polype, found by Mr. Baries and others along dur-northern coasts, and some lately obtained by Mr. Holdsworth in Torbay, may all be referred to Zounthus Couchii. The living Polypes exhibited to the meeting were dredged on the 12th of October last, in ten or twelve fathoms water, at about a mile from the eastern headland of Torbay, and, although small, agree in other respects with the probably maturer examples from other parts of the coast.—
Mr. E. L. Layard communicated a paper 'On some Testacellic lately found in the Botanic Gardens in Cape Town.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Dec. 15.—Sir J. Clark, Bart. President, in the chair.—Mr. T. W. Atkinson rea-'An Account of an Ascent with the Kirghis through Mountain Passes in the Alatou, to their Summer Pastures at the Foot of the Snowy Peaks of the

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Ac-tou, Chinese Tartary.' This paper was the subject of a long discussion, chiefly between Mr. Crawfurd, Admiral FitzRoy, Dr. Hodgkin, and Mr. Atkinson himself, which turned mainly on the capability and probability of the Kirghis contributing to our future trade with China.—Mr. E. G. Squier exhibited a number of fine photographs made in Honduras and Central America, upon which he washe some agreement and graye an account. which he made some remarks, and gave an account of the remains of the Carib race now settled in

PHILOLOGICAL.—Nov. 4.—H. Wedgwood, Esq., in the chair.—W. Glynes, Esq., was elected a Member.—The paper read was, 'On the Names of Ants, Earwigs, and Beetles,' by E. Adams, Esq. Nov. 17.—The Rev. Dr. Hawtrey in the chair.

—The paper read was, 'A Contribution to the Study of the English Language from the Lower-Saxon,' by the Rev. J. Davies.

Dec. 2.—Prof. Key in the chair.—The Rev. W. C. Plenderleath, J. J. Price, Esq., and N. Price, Esq., were elected Members—The papers read were, 'On the Nation by which the Cuneiform Mode of Writing were investigated in the Cuneiform Mode of Writing were investigated. Mode of Writing was invented,' and 'On the most Ancient Ethnographical State of Western Asia historically known, by Dr. Lottner.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN .- Dec. 14 .- Dr. J. Lee in the chair.-Mr. Marsden read an illustrated paper 'On the Discrepancies in the Reading of Egyptian Hieroglyphs by different Authorities.'—Mr. Sharpe read a paper 'On the Date of the Crucifixion.'
The writer pointed out that Lactantius and other
early Christian writers record that the Saviour
was crucified in the Consulship of the two Gemini, who held office from January to Midsunmer, A.D. 29. Origen says, that the Temple was destroyed by Titus within forty-two years of the Crucifixion; and Josephus tells us, that the destruction took and Josephus tells us, that the destruction took place 41½ years after Easter, A.D. 29. The Evangelist Luke tells us, that the Saviour's Baptism by John took place in the fifteenth year of Tiberius. But as the Easterns count the year, not from the return of the accession, but from the civil new year's day, the fifteenth of Tiberius began on the 29th of August, A.D. 27, when he had been emperor only thirteen years and a few days. This fixes the time for the beginning of the Saviour's ministry at the autumn of A.D. 27. If we then allow try at the autumn of A.D. 27. If we then allow eighteen months for the length of the ministry, we are brought to Easter, A.D. 29 for the date of the crucifixion as before. Mr. Sharpe then proceeded crucifixion as before. Mr. Sharpe then proceeded to show that the period of our Saviour's driving the dealers out of the Temple, when the Jews said to him the Temple of Jerusalem had been forty-six him the Lempise of Jerusalem and been lowy-sax years in building, being according to the Evangelists (with the exception of John) shortly before the last Passover, they must, according to Josephus's account as to when Herod began to re-build the Temple, have made that remark in the spring for a writing form weeks as done of the of A.D. 29, or within a few weeks or days of the crucifixion. Further: In the year A.D. 29, the first new moon after the spring equinox fell on the evening of Saturday, the 2nd of April. The next day, therefore, was the first day of the month of Nisan. The fourteenth day was a Saturday or Sabbath. That day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread when the Passover was to be slain, and it was to be eaten that same evening after sunset (see Exodus xii. xiii.) This gives a full agreement with John's gospel, where we are told that the crucifixion took place on the day of Preparation, or day before the Passover, on a year when the following day was a High Sabbath, because it was at the same time the Sabbath and the Passover. That day, according to these calculations, was Friday, the 15th of April, A.D. 29. Mr. Sharpe argued, that the other three Evangelists contradict elves when they place the day of Preparation themselves when they place the day of Preparation after the Passover, and make it a preparation for the Sabbath. Only one Preparation service is known to the Jews, namely,—that on the search for leaven after sunset, or the day before the Passover. Hence, they may also be in error in saying that the Last Support of our Lord with his discipler was the Last Supper of our Lord with his disciples was the Passover Supper, and that the crucifixion took place after the Passover. The Evangelists have left us in similar doubt as to which custom they were following-the Oriental or the Greek, -count-

ing the evening on the beginning or the end of the day; and it seems probable that the first three mean to convey that the crucifixion took place on Thursday, and the Preparation service on the evening, which would correspond with Jewish tradition, — according to which, when the 14th day of the month—the day of the Passover—falls on a Sabbath, the Preparation is to take place on Thursday evening, because on Friday evening the Sabbath will have begun, and all such work is investigated. work is improper.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mos. Institute of Actuaries, 7.—'on the Rates of Interest for the Use of Money in Ancient and Modern Times, Part III. by Mr. Hodge.

TUES. Royal Institution, 3.—'on Metalline Properties, Lustre, 2007, by Prof. Faraday.

THURS. Royal Institution, 3.—'on Metalline Properties, Chemical Say.

Royal Institution, 3.—'on Metalline Properties, Chemical Say.

Royal Institution, 3.—'on Metalline Properties, Heat, Electricity, Tenacity, &a.,' by Prof. Faraday.

PINE ARTS

"Curry and Rice," on Forty Plates; or, the Ingredients of Social Life at "Our Station" in India. By George Francklin Atkinson, Captain Bengal Engineers. (Day & Son.)

A troublous ride with the nightmare after a Christmas dinner—the Lord Mayor's Show on a Sunday-Anderson's masquers escaping, all draggled and terror-stricken, from the blazing theatre—anything imaginable, most incon-gruous, can scarcely equal the variety of page that now comes to us from India. India, that once a year sent forth its modestly-proportioned volume of travels or adventure,—once in a decade supplied the ponderous tome of history or antiquarian research, now pours forth a library each month. India is no more a silent dream-land, but is all vocal now. All tones are touched, from the deep pathos of the sufferers of Lucknow to the quaint farce, the quips and merriment of the volume before us. We must own the note here sounded jars somewhat on our ear, which has of late been so accustomed to solemn and sad sounds from the quarter where these scenes are laid,—has listened so much to the tragic muse, that it has little inclination for the sallies of the Court-Jester.

Every man, however, to his humour: there is no dish that will not suit some diner; and no doubt these Forty Plates of Indian cookery will find many to relish them. Capt. George Franck-lin Atkinson is a skilful Soyer, or to use his own dog-Hindústání, a Bobachy of mark. He has dished up the social life of Anglo-Indians. We must supply a specimen of his dainties. It shall be one that has already grown more rare, and which, with the new art of competitioncookery, will soon be altogether lost. On his Tenth Plate is served up the Joint Magistrate, a good specimen of the raw Haileybury youth of old times—selected civilians are of a different

"He lives in that bungalow near the Cutcherry, where you'll find him soon : his sporting habiliments are discarded; the shirt-sleeves of comfort, the slippers of ease, together with the flowing draperies of coolness, usurp the place of boots and leather inexpressibles; the jockey cap yields to the more genial Glengarry; and so our friend, seated in his verandah, holds his morning court. He is supposed to listen to the daily reports, to hear com-plaints, and perform official business at this early hour. Of course he is most attentive; the Gazette in his hand, with an account of the Gronepore races is merely a toy; while the sable office reading away for the very life, utterly regardless of stops, monotonously and nasally race over the documents, swinging their shawled bodies back-wards and forwards. Huldey hears all about it, but he does not overlook how that Phizgig with 10 stone has besten Screwdriver carrying 8 stone 4 lb.; and then he lights his cheroot and sips his tea, which, with a slice of buttered toast, his table attendant has brought and placed alongside of him,

while his favourite dog Forceps, something between a pariah and a buggy-rug, sits by expectantly. Thus public and domestic matters progress congenially."

Most truthfully compounded, we fear, is the next dish but one, and not a whit too highly spiced. Language may be well chosen, and thought excellent, nay, sublime; but alas! seriousness takes flight at so slight a scaring as a single mis-pronounced letter. The substitution of a b for p in the invitation to prayer, a lapsus too often committed by the German tongue, has before now, in an English audience, made devotion difficult. What then must be the effect upon the natives of India of an uncouth foreign prounciation? The sermon must be good indeed that makes converts when so delivered :-

"A very excellent little fellow is Furitz, but it is to be hoped that his orations in the Oriental vernacular are couched in language more intelligible to his hearers than are his efforts in English; but his sermon, which was all about a 'winny-ya-ard,' was an affecting one, albeit the solemnity of the discourse was endangered by the eccentricity of the English, which, I must confess, excited the cachinnations of several members of our otherwise discreet congregation."

Many are the pleasant pictures of this somewhat coarse but still amusing series of carricatures. Judge and Judge's Wife, the Bari Bibi, or great lady, of "Our Station," Colonel and Padre, and grim old Doctor, and pretty chatting misses, "Our Spins," all pass before enatung misses, "Our Spins," all pass before us, and are served up in turn. "Remove the dishes," for the repast is over. We rise from table with a better appetite than we brought to it. 'Curry and Rice' is not, we suppose, our author's pièce de résistance. When that comes, we shall, probably, sit down with more zest, and rise still better satisfied. In the mean time, though the ragout of which we have partaken is somewhat out of season, we have dined on it indifferently well.

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE second annual Exhibition of this useful Art-brotherhood has just opened in the Pall Mall Gallery. Why the figure photographers should recede from the architectural photographers we cannot see; but we suppose these secessions are protests against error, and that somebody has done wrong and compelled the planting of this fresh Art-colony at a time of the year when aparthing received. colony at a time of the year when anything new in Art is always welcome, as long as it is not con-nected with "the old Christmas trick" which shopnected with "the old Christmas trick" which shop-keepers seem to use, as by common consent, to work off their faded stock. This Association, though new, does not, we must say, seem very well managed. The photographer's catalogue is not published, the Spanish photographs by Clifford have not arrived, and thirty subjects from North Italy, by Ponti, are not even classed or described in the summary. As it is, we have, however, 343 photographs by the most eminent artists of Paris, Rome, Venice, Florence, including studies by itinerant agents from Cairo, Jerusalem, and our home districts. Messrs. Baldus, Clifford, Macpherson, Cimetta, Ponti, Frith, Cade, Locke, Melhuish, allsend portfolios of works which will do much to verify or confute books of travels and to spread a taste for a broader and more exact class of Art. The names of Messrs. Cockerell, Hardwick, Smirke, Frith, and Wyatt on the committee of this Art-printing Association, show how thoroughly architectural its

For every art-quality, Messrs. Cimetta's studies from the poet's city, Venice, rank highest. They are large, broad, clear, and full of detail. They look more historical, and quite epitomize Daru and Sismondi.

One of the finest works in the room is the Sitting Lion at the Venice Arsenal (131), the lion of St. Mark, — the saintly lion whose bannered effigy the great Pantaloon family (now so reduced) 58

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bore so often to Cyprus and the Golden Horn. We who think only of the long-suffering pantaloons of our Christmas pantomimes, forget the great race from whom they first derived their name. Here is the great porphyry or grante lion, grim and steadfast, a foot long, and with every scar, dent, and dimple of the stone reproduced by this wondrous and faithful art. Mark the great soul in the eye of the beast, the giant moulding of limb that so great is yet so swift and plint. Discover the the eye of the beast, the grant mountaing of mint that so great is yet so swift and pliant. Observe the great flood of black gore that seems to champ out of his vast stone jaws, and which in reality is the mere rain-stain that has matted black and thick down the front of the guardian beast of Venice. We do not care so much for the great snuffy re-Venice are in fact in these grand Cimetta photographs, from the Porta della Casta and Ponte della Paglia to the Palagra Committee cumbent lion, our friend's fellow, but all the lions of Monument. Here that great Campanile rears its conical head into the sea of blue air; there below we are wondering at the deities, and trophies, and metal thickets in the bronze gates of its Logetta. No. 133 is a surprising view of the Bronze Horses. The cobby-necked, clipped-maned horses that pace above the entrance of that coloured Eastern cave—the Palace of St. Mark's; waiting for their Angel riders who have not yet left the throne unguarded, and are not yet driven from their long watch and ward within. How full of compact sinew and life are those eternal horses of the great Greek stud long since broken up! From these champing horses, with their bronze collars, that seem descending to earth like Phaeton's steeds, the chariot broken, the driver dead, we come to the giant's staircase with the statue guardians that have seen so many Doges come and pass away; and then we go to the Doge's Palace fretted like a casket, with its alabaster lozengings, rain-streaked, and its cloister-like piazzetta for th rain-streamed, and its closter-like plazzetts for the red-capped fishermen to goesip and sleep under. The Canopy over the door of St. Stephen's Church (128) is full of a rich luxuriant growth culminating in that figure of the saint as in a perfect flower. After this we wander on past water palace after water palace, with their sculptured balconies and strange piles and posts for boat moorings, at the gates where men of other cities would tie up their horses. Then there is the *Bridge of Sighs* (144), with its covered way, as for the passage of hidden secrets, and the great palace walls sloping down to the deep, silent canal that tells no tales. In these the water is much improved, and is less satinny and strange. The reflective shadows are given with exceeding truth and detail, and fill the Venetian lagunes with strange dark phantoms of wild purgatorial life. From Rome of the Cæsars Mr. Macpherson brings home rare booty. With him we again watch Marcus Aurelius (17) bestriding his bronze charger on the high platform space of the Capitol; with him we wander out to San Tietro in Vincoli, and go again to that dark recess where Michael Angelo's Moses (16) sits—type of the lawgiver and the conquering leader; the form Phidian, the gaze sublime; the great train of beard flowing down in a cataract of hair, as the water flowed from the miraculous, stricken rock. We go on to the vast Forum with the scathed pillars bound together in a companionship of deso-lation by split pediment or slab of carved cornice. There is the round cheese-like Mole of Hadrian, squat and strong, watchful of the statued bridge (14). Here are the Olympian halls of the Vatican, where mythology seems turned to stone; and there is that crawling statue of the river Nile with the swarms of Lilliput cupids that always remind us of populous mites in a ripe Stilton. The sea-god foun-tains of Rome greet us too here, particularly the Barberini (54) and Tartaraghi (55).

Bas-reliefs of all kinds are here from the great grave of Art,—from the Procession on the Arch of Yitus (71) to the Funereal Games on the Antonine Column, in the Garden of the Vaticum (100). We can go, too, outside the French-guarded walls, and see the Claudian aqueducts stilting over the plain, or look into the darkness of the great black arch of the Cloaca Maxima. We can see the keen-edged pyramid of Caius Cestus, beside Keats's grave; and now, by taking one step, find ourselves looking

at the god-youth of Apollo, or the circular temple of Vesta, close beside the Tiber, near the house of Rienzi and the old Circus—now a washing-ground. Passing from the giant mountains of ground. Passing from the giant mountains of ruined brickwork, bushed and bearded with ivy and dead flowers, we go by easy and delightful stages to the charging water, beautiful in its anger, at Tivoli, where invalid Maccenas read Horace, and set the example of quotation, still used now and then in Parliament. The Fresco of Signorelli at Orvieto (27) reminds us of Michel Angelo's obligation to that robust thinker, who painted figures that stand out like statues, and by a mere tumble of men down a staircase and out at a door has conveyed to us so powerful a sense of the expulsion of the Fallen Angels. The Castle at Tivoli (33) is interesting, as a point of comparison with our English more stern and serious-looking fortresses,—and the Etruscan Gateway at Perugia (70) is valuable as a trace of the old Eastern element in European civilization. Leaving basilica, forum, tomb, church, and statue, we get warme —as children say at their hide and seek games
—as we approach the Eastern views of Messrs.
Robertson and Beato. The Cairo Streets (197) are curious, from their projecting square windows, with their casket-pierced, filagree-walled gratings, where antelope-eyed beauties sit like birds in cages. The globing mosque-domes are here, zoned and figured over with arabesque work. There are mameluke and caliph tombs, and mosque fountains, and the Pyramids in all positions. Yes; fountains, and the Pyramids in all positions. Yes; our old friends the Pyramids,—those queer geometricisms,—types of nobody, after all, knows what,—some all but peeled of their stony tunicle; others ribbed into terraces,—one looking like a heap of loose building stone, the edges worn by Arabs' feet into steps. We leave them for M. Lousada's Spanish scenes, which, though not matchless, are interesting from their singularity of scene. In these views we strall sound the honey. matchiess, are interesting from their singularity of scene. In these views we stroll round the honey-combed walls and fairy-trellised arcadings of the Alhambra, or visit Pedro the Cruel's Moorish Aleazar at Seville. We pass through the horse-shoe arch that leads into the Court of Orange-Trees the old Moorish court of purification—or look up at the terra-cotta looking towers of Malaga Cathe-dral. The gridiron Escurial (230) and a Valencian Market-Place (237) stand as contrasts.

For tone, finish, and sharpness, there are none of the English photographs superior to Mr. Bedford's Tintern Abbey (312, 313). The flower-like stalk of the east window is exquisitely graceful and slender, and the speckle of the stone is perfect. In Raylan Castle (317), the picture is small, but

Mr. Baldus's French views are few and meagre. The Pavillon d'Horloge—Louvre (273)—the ivy is inferior to Brisson's.—Mr. Frith achieves wonders; and in Mount Horeb, Sinai (285), attains an effect of distance that Turner never surpassed. The foreground tree helps this by its black, spiky branches, that throw back and give air to the barren, mysterious mountain; but his greatest work is his bright, full, long Panorama of Cairo (311). This is a miracle of Art, with half the population thrown in, small as pismires. The egg-like mosques, the flat roofs, the awnings and slantings of sheds and windows, form curious combinations, amid which a native might pick out his quarter—street—nay, very house.—Mr. Cocke confines himself entirely to the Old Country, and gives us more Tintern Abbeys, spires, and cloisters. He shows us the picturesque, monastic, covered bridge of St. John's at Cambridge, St. Botolph's Priory at Colchester, St. Osyth's Priory at Ipswich, Seckford Hall, Suffolk, and Sir Isaac Newton's Tower, Cambridge.

So we go on cataloguing nature, and bringing home each day fresh fruit into our Art garners. So we must go on: the photographer recording fact—fact in her sunniest or saddest mood,—but still fact, sworn fact,—while the artist collating these certificated affidavits of nature, will compare, select, heighten, and raise them to the grand ideal convention which is called Art. Thus Nature will glorify Art—Art, Nature; and more spies, with their hooded heads, sensitive glasses, baths, and soaps, will traverse rare and forgotten corners,—verifying history, illuminating fiction, lending

lustre to fact, rendering imagination more brilliant by increasing the regions of her reign, and bringing fresh subjects to her queenly feet.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The Junior Etching Club have put their love, their weakness, and their eccentricity into an illustration of the wit, humour and pathos of Thomas Hood. Mr. Gambart publishes their work, which is about as incomplete and vexatious as Hood's hottest enemy could desire. The artists are nearly all unknown to the public as Pre-Raphaelites; and their etchings have the spasm, trick, and defective drawing which mark the inferior members of that very bad school of Art. Even in the better order of these etchings there is a certain unreality—a Surrey-Theatre flash and force—eminently wearisome and provoking; such, for example, as Mr. C. Rossiter's plate of 'Eugene Aram's Dream,' and Mr. Luard's 'Lay of the Labourer.' From this censure, however, we would entirely except Mr. Clark's 'Retrospective Review,' which has in it real fun and beauty,—and Mr. Millais' 'Bridge of Sighs,' in which the gaunt homeless look, and loathsomely-epical distracted air of the poor daughter of shame, are caught with marvellous truth and force. These two plates ought to save the Hood Illustrations from oblivion.

On Wednesday Mr. W. Burges gave a lecture at the Brompton Museum, 'On the Conventional Ornament of the Middle Ages,' which we think contained some wholesome advice to Art-workmen who think that copying a twisted twig with its leaves is the whole art of ornamentation, quite forgetting, as the lecturer showed, that the stem requires increasing and the leaves diminishing to fit it for the object in view. The lecturer began with the diaper, from which he derived most of the dispositions of ornament, and then described the various shapes and forms which make up the recurring divisions of the diaper; and went on to the details inclosed in those forms, particularly those used in the thirteenth century, but advised his hearers to go to nature and conventionalize the forms of the various flowers, leaves, &c. for themselves. To all this we say, Amen. The abortive efforts made during the year by uneducated men to invent ornament by simply copying nature are quite sufficient proofs that something else is requisite than mere copyism, whether of nature or antiquity, to make good ornament. We really hope that the lecturer's advice will be followed, and that our architects and designers will set to work seriously to give new conventional expressions to the

boundless stores of nature.

We have before noticed the useful tracings of a British Museum Old Testament History, now publishing by Mr. M. H. J. Westlake. We have praised Mr. Westlake several times for his good taste in selecting the MS. he has chosen, and for his zeal in redeeming the nation from the disgrace of having so long suffered so precious a relic of fourteenth-century Art to remain unpublished; having given him this free praise, we must now not hesitate to point out his shortcomings. In the first place, he is specky, and broken in line; in the second place, he frequently leaves out all the expression of the faces, not apparently understanding the principle on which they are drawn; the eyes he dwindles to mere dots,—even the prose legends he is not always careful in translating verbatim. Now, as antiquarian relics, the chief value of any transcripts of them must be their exactitude,—

All is but gilded loam and painted clay.

—The Biblical legends illustrated in the Part are very curious, and show the clouds of shadows that every Bible-text seems to have been followed with throughout the Middle Ages. There is the Devil, a horned man in a gown, with webbed feet, tempting Noah's wife, who in old legends is always a dreadful shrew. He gives her a drug, which infused into Noah's drink will make him disclose his secret. Then, Noah builds, and strikes the first blow, which is heard all through the world,—then an angel comes to him, and he cries "Mercy," having apparently hesitated in going on with his ark. Then Noah and all the animals,

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particularly the artist insists on the dragon, lion, and unicorn, go up by a ladder into the ark. Then we see Noah sending forth the raven, who stays to feed on a horse's head, and the dove that returns with the olive-branch. Then, again, we see the patriarchal mariner sitting at the ark's helm, and the Devil, as Noahcries' Benedicite, "flying through the bottom of the ark, and the serpent driving his tail through the hole. Then there is Thare, Abraham's father, making idols, and sending his son to market with them. Again, we see the patriarch in righteous anger breaking the idols in presence of the wondering men of the law. Such are the traditions on which this early monkish artist of ours grafted such graceful, tender, and vigorous designs, the value of which we would not willingly see lessened by hasty, careless, or inattentive copying. We have pointed out nothing but what Mr. Westlake can easily correct, and we hope in the next Part to see the result of our warning.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS—In consequence of the great success of the late Concerts, under the direction of M. of the great success of the late Concerts, under the direction of M. of the property of the concerts of the conc

Mr. SIMS REEVES and MISS GODDARD will appear in the St. James's Hall, on MONDAY EVENING, January 3, at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, in conjunction with the Segelish Singers, &c. &c.—sofa Stalls, 54; Heserved Scats as, in may be obtained at the [Balcomy, 54] Creamer Scats, it, may be obtained at the Indian Scatter of the Section of the

The SWEDISH SINGERS will appear at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS in the St. James's Hall, on the EVEN-INGS of MONDAY, Jamany 3 and 10.—Sofs Atalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.; may be obtained at the Hall, 2s. Piecadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 48, Cheapside; Cramer & Co.'s, 201, Regent Street; Chappell & Co.'s, 50, New Bond Street.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD begs to announce that she will give a MATINÉE MUSICALE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC, at the 8k. James's Hall, on SATURDAY, January 18, previous to her departure for a Frovincial Tour. To commence at half-past Two o'clock.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

WE must here close our accounts for 1858 with English musical publications.

Thirty Progressive Studies for the Organ, Op. by W. T. Best (Addison & Co.),—is a clever elementary book. Their writer, it is needless to announce, is thoroughly conversant with his instrument; -and he here leads the hands and feet of his pupil, by sure degrees, towards that state of preparation at which something more ambitious may be attempted with security.—In deference, however, to Mr. Best's better judgment, we may ask him whether he has not been too timid in regard to the independence of the feet. We fancy that without any unfair increase of the diffi-, somewhat more of variety might have been introduced, as regards time and entry-with a view, from the first, of reminding the organist in embryo of that third estate on the floor, which is to walk and talk in its own separate way, let the hands do what they will.—Another organ-book is here:—one of Davison's Musical Miracles,—being 100 Voluntaries, &c., for the Organ or Harmonium (Davison), -in some respects a noticeable shilling's worth of music: mainly a reprint of some of the always estimable compositions of Rink,-but we must ask, whether a literal one? The words "organ or harmonium" are the cause of our question. The music which is to be manageable for both instruments must be restricted, therein poor as organ-music.—The selections from other authors than Rink are not always wise. andante from Beethoven's Symphony in A is hardly transferable to the organ.

The other instrumental music before us,—besides that which is to be danced,—are a Serenade by Emanuel Aguilar, Op. 23 (Schott & Co.), in which the effort is hardly equalled by the success,—and a Selection of the most Popular Welsh Airs, &c., by T. D. Morris (Chester, Catherall & Co.)—These

are prefaced by a "testimonial" from Miss Catharine Hayes. Three of them, "Pen Rhaw," "Ruthin Castle," and "The Bee," are new to us; it may be, in whole or part, new tunes; but, without doubt, written in the pompous old Welsh style.

The admonition "to let well alone" might have been applied to Mr. W. Spark when he betook himself to set Moore's song, "Merrily every bosom boundeth," anew (Leader & Cock).—The words are not Moore's best; and with their jingle of "Mer-rily," "Wearily," and "Cheerily," were merely fitted up by him to suit a national melody in a particular rhythm. We should as soon desire to hear 'Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch' mated afresh .- Mr. Spark, too, has not produced what justifies a selection so open to question ;-and what manner of behaviour to th spelling-book words is that which treats the word "charms" as a noun of three syllables !- We shall never have English music while English prosody is so largely ignored, as is at present the fashion. In no other language is the disregard of accent so profligately incorrect as in ours .- O, Mistress mine a Four-Part Song for Alto, Tenor, and Two Basses, by Thomas Harris Macdermott (Ewer & Co.), is curiosity of harsh modulation and absence melody. The alto part is written in a scale which fits neither male nor female voice: too high for the former, too low for the latter .- "O, Hear ye not, Maidens": Trio for Equal Voices, by Henry Smart (Cramer & Co.), is a pleasing notturno a tre, —hardly, however, for equal voices.

Chants and Canticles used at Morning and Evening Prayer, plainly noted as a Chant Service. By Josiah Pittman. (Bell & Daldy.)—The name to this collection entitles it to respect, and it is evident that Mr. Pittman has noted his Service on a settled system of declamation. This is not altogether ours; and seeing that the subject is exciting attention, we may possibly return to it at some less busy time,—contenting ourselves, for the moment, with stating that the work, as it stands, is completely

This being the season of "The Waits," it is fit that we should have Curols, too, and Christmas Hymns; and here is a sheet of such from 'The Musical Treasury' (Davison).—They are of unequal merit. We may stretch a point to let in "See, the conquering hero comes!" (observing distinctly that such is a concession to the popularity of that most cheerfully triumphant of all melodies), but cannot admit that the Russian tune, which Moore and Bishop dished up as 'The Vesper Hymn,' can have any place among our holly and misletce. Its sickly burden

"Jubilate, Amen,"

is picturesque enough in an opera-church, but out of place among our frosts and glooms,—and discrepant with the sturdy, jovial good faith of old England's singers at this "hallowed and gracious" time.—With these we may announce Eight Hymn Tunes (Peculiar Metres), by John Towers of Manchester (Novello),—the words having been chosen from the hymnology of "The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge."—The People's Tune-Book: a Manual of Psalmody for Scotland (Aberdeen, Brown), is cheap, copious, compendious, neatly printed, and its contents have been "selected by express permission": a book to be indorsed with entire commendation,—a few "arrangements," and a footnote or two excepted, as being not in true

What remains of our task will be little more than enumeration.—"Who can she be?" the words by Thomas Moore,—"Rizzio," and "The Song of Miriam," are composed by Walter Maynard (Cramer & Co.).—"Let me whisper in thine car" is a ballad, written at Mr. Sims Reeves, by Mr. Balfe (Cramer & Co.)—"The Rhine-Maiden" and "Do you think of the days that are gone, Jeanie?" (same publishers) are by Mr. H. Smart.—"The Mother's Blessing: a Poem,"—has been set by George Russell (Williams).—Six Songs for Leisure Hours, by Thomas Plumptre Methuen (Cocks & Co.), clearly belong to that domain of amateur work (or play), that critics are too "sad and civil" to enter.—"Break! Break! Break!" by F. R. Cox (Mills), is yet another version of the Laureate's well-known, impassioned wail, and, moreover, about the best

among many. We shall not, however, be easily convinced that the lyric is one good as "canvas." The meaning is too fine—the declamatory passion too lacerating to permit of the words being properly rendered in music. But the majority is against us.

—"Beware," by Prof. Longfellow, has anew been taken in hand by Caroline Adelaide Dance (Ollivier). — "The Merry, merry Lark," the poetry by the Rev. C. Kingsley, has been "done into music" by Mrs. C. A. Johns (Davison & Co.)—"The Wedded " (Jewell), a telegraph hymn, by the Rev. G. W. Doane, is of American origin as regards the words: the music is English, by Matthew Cooke, "formerly one of the children of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal."—"They are the Lilies" is also half American, the words by Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, the music by Cecilia Maud Campbell (Cocks & Co.).— "Indian Songs," Nos. I. and II. (Williams), have words and airs by Thomas Moore (not the Irish melodist); the airs arranged for the pianoforte by T. Browne (not "Thomas Brown the younger").—Here, too, No. I. of the People's Edition of Moore's Irish Melodies, with Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte (Longman & Co.), may be announced. Here, too, are, again, if we mistake not, changes under pretext of simplification, or to suit typogra-phical difficulties, from the original arrangements of Moore and Stevenson; but the book is neatly printed.—Last and best among the songs is Part VI. of Old English Ditties, selected from Chappell's Collection, arranged with Symphonies and Accompaniments (which is synonymous with being arranged well), by G. A. Macfarren (Chappell & Co.)

Gaston de Litte's Album of Dance Music (Metzler & Co.) is among albums the gayest of the gay, illustrated with resplendent lithographs. For the sake of their resplendencies we cannot overlook the fact, that the music is slighter than it need be.—The Star Galop, The Adeline Polka, The Ernestine Waltzes, by E. H. Prout (Ollivier),—The Rossini Quadrilles, by the same composer (Addison & Co.),—the Vocal Quadrille, written, composed, and dedicated to the Upper Classes of the Humanistic School, by I. F. Borschitzky (this a stremuous appeal to lungs as well as to legs),—and the "Jack-a-Lantern Waltzes," having a stupendous frontispiece in the high pantonime style by Francois Albrun (Campbell),—may be safely handed over to any lady hospitably convening the boys and girls of her acquaintance to dance out this year "of losses and crosses"—1858.—May we have merrier dance-music for the twelvemonth that is to come!

COVENT GARDEN.—This splendid theatre, in its arrangements for its new audience, slightly modified, opened on Monday last, as announced, under the management of Miss L. Pyne and Mr. Harrison;—with Mr. Balfe's new four-act opera, in English, entitled 'Satanella.'—The book is an adaptation of that intricate, entertaining ballet, 'Le Diable Amoureux,' in which, some score of years ago, Madame Pauline Leroux used to delight the frequenters of the Paris Académie,—and the producers of it are Messrs. Harris and Falconer. We cannot think it a good book, in any sense of the word. The bustle which is charming in a ballet,—the utter disregard of local colour and possibility,—the perpetual changes of scene,—the mixture of German diablérie, Italian coquetry, Eastern sensuality,—with a touch of religion in the last scene,—such a miscellaneous jumble of many disconnected things, besides bewildering any composer who desired to see his way clear, becomes in this form tiresome to an audience.—Here, too, the libretiists have dwelt on two or three situations, with the idea of being comical: but the result is only hazardous. The duett with sticks at Tunis, betwixt the old tutor and the peasant, and the scene in the slave-market following, both met with disapprobation. Nor is this production, more fatiguing than brilliant, wrought out in even or passable dialogue, with neat "lengths" for the concerted pieces and gentle namby-pamby for the ballads. The English is very strange:—but we will not weary the reader with citations: merely stating our conviction that the whole, with its details, is no advance on those productions by Messrs. Bunn and Fitzball, the folly and tawdry

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of which have been one among other reasons which are virtually so much why English Opera has made no progress in evasion of construction.—There are good combinating country.—Better, to illustrate, a hundred times, were the days when that which was written by Messrs. Planché and Bishop, musi-nouncing the doom of the Demon who personates written by Messrs. Planche and Bishop, musically scanty though it was, to suit an unmusical period—was sung by Miss Stephens and Miss Tree, by Braham and Mr. Phillips. Then, we had glees, graceful in their verse, if not poetically abstruse, — then, ballads, which could be read without recalling "the Cremorne poet." Having said thus much with regret, we need only add, (seeing that the story is familiar to our theatrical readers,) that Miss Louisa Pyne is the Satanella, or she-devil, who falls in love with the somewhat wild Count Rupert (Mr. Harrison), after having been evoked by Arimanes (Mr. Weiss) to inveigle his soul into the toils of darkness,—that Miss his soul into the tons of darkness,—that Miss Susan Pyne is Stella, that profligate and haughty Sicilian lady, to whom Count Rupert was betrothed; and who, in revenge at being slighted for Lelia (Miss Rebecca Isaacs), Rupert's German peasant foster-sister, wins all his property over the dice-box,—that Mr. G. Honey is Hortensius, the pedantic old tutor of Count Rupert, -and Mr. St. Albyn Karl, the simple and unsuccessful peasantlover of the peasant-heroine, whose forlornness in disappointment is as old as Opera. It was a real pleasure to meet again Mr. W. H. Payne, whose stolid cupidity, in the mute part of the Vizier, made for us the only merriment in the four acts. As Bracachio, a Moorish pirate, Mr. H. Corri was not satisfactory.—Of the other performers in the cast no mention need be made,—one word being added to the credit of the chorus, which was sufficiently powerful and intelligent.

Thus much in regard to the canvas and outline of this elaborate and ambitious work. We have now to speak of their embroidery,—the music. It would be lost labour to analyze Mr. Balfe's talent and facility in composition with any hope of their undergoing change or improvement. Wherefore undergoing change or improvement. he has chosen to hang half-way betwixt the Riccis of Italy and the Adams of France (possessing, nevertheless, the elements of a style of his own), it would be bootless now to inquire, — as fruitless to specify the qualities which must make the bulk of his music ephemeral. — Never had any opera composer better change they have a consider the control of the contr better chances than he has enjoyed,—never had English opera composer such chances at all,—and there is hardly one of his works without some of there is hardly one of his works without some or those seizing traits or passages, which are worth their weight in gold,—now that Invention's leaden age is on us. Yet how small has been the real result!—It is impossible to overlook such facts during a period when some movement is being made towards the formation of English Opera, and when Mr. Balfe's "annual" seems to be the only piece of new stage-music which there is much chance of our hearing during any given twelvemonth.

This time, as our readers may have gathered,
Mr. Balfe has been set down to a task more bewildering than inspiriting,—has been called on, moreover,
(as in the gambling scene of the first act, and
others,) to enter the lists against a complicator and
calculator no less accomplished than M. Meyerbeer. Yet we are not sure that any of Mr. Balfe's previous operas contains more distinct indication of what he might have been than 'Satanella.'-There are some of his happiest thoughts in it,-a few of his happiest things:—these, by the way, not bal-lads. The instrumental prelude, after which the curtain rises, is good,—the Gold song is not, and not the Champagne song in the Devil's Tower on the Brockenberg (how German the fancy!)—but the melody for Satanella, at the close of the first act, with the voices supporting its burden, is tuneful, mysterious, and charming,-excellent stage-music for the situation.-In the second act an attempt seems to have been made to outdo the laughing trio in 'The Rose of Castille,' in the laughing quartett, where Count Rupert puts on an enchanted hat, by way of unmasking Stella's hypocrisy,—and parts of this have vivacity and sparkle.—The pirate music does not get beyond a pantomime introduction.

The ballad for Satanella,

tions in the second made, where the bridesmads procession is darkened by the thunder-cloud announcing the doom of the Demon who personates the bride.—In act the third,—utterly objectionable to our thinking as is the cudgel, or cane-comedy, of the duett already alluded to, and tremendous as are its words, the music is of clever comic quality. The quintett in the slave-market, "O woe! despair!" is excellent of its sort. More than one less effective movement has saved a worthless act in one of Signor Verdi's operas.—Enough has been specified to show what we fancy there is to admire in 'Satanella.' It is significant, too, that what we like best (with the solitary exception of the lovesong) are not the displays laid out for principal soprano, tenor, or basso,—but certain pieces and fancies, where the musician has forgotten his words, -ceased to flatter his singers, thought of the stage, and dashed on alone.

So long are the above remarks that, for the moment, we may be excused from any minute criticism of the singers.—They are all, however, we are satisfied, straining the cord to the very verge of its cracking by singing in grand opera, on a large stage, every night. This is to be heard in the voice of every one concerned; and with good wishes for the success of an undertaking (in nowise at variance with free discussion of mistakes made), would we reverse the adage, and remind them, that "a merry life may be a short one." The theatre was full,—the applause, in places, enthusiastic,—the encores were many—the com-poser and singers were called for again and again, -but if 'Satanella' keep the English stage its composer's 'Bohemian Girl,'—and circulates abroad, as has done 'Les Quatre Fils Aymon,'—we shall be surprised.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP. — At the last Musical Soirée of the Eighth Season of the Réunion des Arts, M. Wieniawski was the principal violinist. He is associated with M. Jullien in his coming "farewell" tour through England, which is to precede that triumphant, artistic, philanthropic, and scientific promenade round the globe,—to which allusion has been made in the Athenæum.-It seems unreasonable, to the verge of absurdity, that so little chamber-music is possible in London before Valentine's Day.—M. Sainton is about to take a short flight to the Continent,-Herren Molique and Pauer and Mr. Sloper are silent;-Signori Piatti and Pezze might simply be practising their violoncelli at home, for any noise of quartetts and tries which reaches our ears. In fact, a strange Viennese, or Cremonese, or Parisian, who had alighted in our capital during the past month —so memorable for its darkness,—might have been excused had he gone home and printed in his book of travels that there was only one solitary instrumentalist to be found in London after "the House is up,"—that one being Miss Arabella Goddard.— Verily, the inconsistencies in musical Art of the English are odd.

The list of operas to be produced during the coming French season at the St. James's Theatre, is ample, and runs as follows:—"By Auber: Domino Noir, L'Ambassadrice, La Sirène, Le Maçon, Fra Diavolo, Les Diamans de la Couronne, La Part du Diable, Haydée, Le Philtre.—By Hérold: Pré aux Clercs, Marie.—By Adam: Le Chalet, Postillon de Longjumeau.—By Ambroise Thomas: Le Songe d'une Nuit d'Été, Le Caïd.—By Halévy: L'Éclair, Les Mousquetaires de la Reine.—By Boieldieu: La Dame Blanche, Le Petit Chaperon Rouge, &c.—By Grétry: Richard Cœur de Lion, Zémire et Azor."-A good list is the above; yet, Zémire et Azor. —A good ist is the above; yes,
—though in no respect "fish-like,"—something
"ancient."—There are little operas by composers
like M. Réber—('Les Papillotes,' to name one),
—or by M. Massé—'Les Noces de Jeannette,'
(to instance another), which would be acceptable in London, and are especially adapted to a company such as the one about to open its accounts with the public on Wednesday. But the management, no doubt, speculates on the English love for that In silence, sad heart, go, which is known—not to say well worn.—In any begins well; but is impaired by the torment of event, we hope that its success will enable it to

fulfil its intention, which is stated to be the pe manent establishment of an Opéra Comique

At the Crystal Palace Concert, on Saturday last, was performed the music of Mendelssohn's Operetta, known here as 'Son and Stranger,' by Mrs. and Mr. Weiss and Mr. Wilbye Cooper as principal

The Drawing-room Opera written by Mr. Palgrave Simpson and Signor Biletta, for a company comprising Mrs. Enderssohn, Mrs. and Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Patey, is now, we understand, ready to start;—and, on New Year's Day, will put itself oodly into railway-carriages with a van for stage and "properties,"—and commence its journey from fown to town in the true old Thespian style.—It is the wise intention of its members, we learn, to work themselves up to the most perfect finish in the provinces before attempting performance in the Metropolis. bodily into railway-carriages with a van for stage and

A new tenor, M. Montaubry, has appeared at A new tenor, M. Montauory, has appeared at the Opéra Comique of Paris, in a new opera, 'Les Trois Nicolas,' by M. Clapisson, with considerable success, both as actor and singer. The piece itself seems to be a poor one, and is built on incidents, which never happened, in the life of Dalayrac, the well-known French composer.—Correspondents in Paris state, that it will be premature to expect M. Meyerbeer's new opera, with only three characters and no chorus, for some months to come.

The Teatro della Scala at Milan is described as

being once again on the very verge of closing.—A comic opera by Signor Bottesini is about to be produced at the Teatro Santa Redegonda in the

produced at the Teatro Santa Redegonda in the same city; but the public there, if newspapers are to be trusted, seems disposed to occupy itself with other matters than music just at present.

Letters from Portugal announce the comples success at Lisbon of Signor Vera's 'Adrianna Lecouvreur.' The principal singers were Madame Tedesco, Signori Neri Baraldi and Cresci. The proposition of the complex signorial singers were madame to the complex signorial singers were madame. opera is also to be given at Florence.-A Napl correspondence announces the coming début of Miss Balfe in 'Lucia,' at the Teatro San Carlo, there.

Germany continues still mute, or worse; for mediocrity in production is more discouraging than utter pause. We are told of a stringed Quartett utter pause. We are told of a stringed Quartett by Herr Raff, which has been performed at Vienna with applause; and of a new Symphony by Herr Reinecke, produced at the eighth Gevand-Haus Concert at Leipsic, which did not please.—At the opera at Dresden, the management is content to fall back on that meritorious but dull work—semi-religious, semi-theatrical—the 'Joseph' of Méhul. The art there is in "but a poor way," it must be

owned. Is nothing to be made of the facts of the week?

—While taking up "the pen of farewell" by way of closing the task of another and not a wholly unprofitable year, we have been struck by the extent to which the interests of stage-music are creeping onwhich the interests of stage-music are creeping on— capriciously it is true—in some respects lamely and incompletely—nevertheless, with a steadiness and a tendency towards a peculiar direction well worth studying by all meditating a musical career.— Choral music being safe among us,—and the in-strumental branch of the art being one of slower growth (in which, too, it may be not idly prophesied, we may never as a pation, equal the average of we may never, as a nation, equal the average excellence of foreign players),—the present seems, assuredly, not an inauspicious time for trying to appeal to our love of song and the stage in combination.—But again and so often as we have to deal with the subject must we insist that grand or, deal with the subject must we insist that grand or, at least, tragic opera will long, if not always, be an exotic luxury—not a natural growth in English. Had we (had any country now) composers capable of such continuous production of grand opera as a theatre requires to make it live and last—we have no school of tragic action and declamation to music. The too short-lived triumphs of Miss Kemble—now The too short-lived triumphs of Miss Kemble—now many years passed away!—have not encouraged any English successor to qualify herself to personate Norma, Semiramide, Iphiyenia, Valentine, Fides, or any of those great creations, without ability to present which attempts at tragedy run into burlesque. — But the opera of mixed character might and ought to take root here, were it judiciously started, and not rested on the false foundation of individual success,—were the story neat, without that over-intrigue which is beginning to weary even the French,—and the words fit to sing and pleasant to say.—Let us hope that the last para-graph of Musical Talk for 1859 will tell a tale of movement forward in the matter,-for the sake of our composers, singers, music-lovers, and play-goers.

MISCELLANEA

List of Eclipses.—The dates of all the eclipses of the sun visible in the Northern Hemisphere within certain meridians, and of all the eclipses of the moon, from the commencement of the Christian era to the year 1900, have been calculated by M. Pingré from the Tables of Halley, or otherwise; the results of this stupendous example of laborious application may be seen in the Art de Vérifier les Dates, Paris, 1770, folio—where it occu-pies fifty pages. With regard to the objections made to the credibility of the Saxon Chronicle, on the score of some statement which is said to appear the score of some statement which is said to appear in the account of A.D. 595, I have to observe that there is no entry under that date. And I request leave to repeat the entries of 538 and 540, in the version of Anna Gurney, which agrees in substance with that of Ingram, and to add thereto the illustrations of Pingré:—"538. This year, fourteen days before the March calends, the sun was eclipsed from early in the morning till nine in the forenoon." Now, according to the above-cited work, and according to the chronology of history, the above date corresponds with the 15th February. I consult the table of Pingré, and find the announcement of a total eclipse of the sun to commence at \$\frac{1}{2}\$ a.m. at Paris, on the aforesaid 15th February. "540. This year the sun was eclipsed on the 12th of the calends of July, and the stars were seen at nearly half-past nine in the forenoon." I repeat the operations with the same result. The above date corresponds with the same result. The above date to the sun to commence at \$\frac{1}{2}\$ a.m. at Paris, on the 10th June. Now, Pingré announces a total eclipse of the sun, to commence at \$\frac{1}{2}\$ a.m. at Paris, on the 10th June. To the above instances, which are the earliest, I wish to add the latest. "1140. After this.... the sun and the day were darkened about noon, when men eat, so that they lighted candles to eat by. This was on the 13th of the calends of April, and the people were greatly astonished." The above date corresponds with the 20th March, and Pingré announces a total eclipse of the sun on that very day.—
Bolton Corney. in the account of A.D. 595, I have to observe that total eclipse of the sun on that very day .-BOLTON CORNEY.

The Grievances of the Country Booksellers.—I have long thought that the retail booksellers, and more particularly the country trade, do not sufficiently avail themselves of the opportunities they have of canvassing the opinions of each other; and strive to raise the trade from the very low ebb it has sunk to. We have several good and independent average whelly dependent to the back trade dent organs wholly devoted to the book trade, whose interest it is and who doubtless would help has now become a great fact, that as a rule the country retail bookselling is not sufficiently remunerative to be worth following; it must be admitted it is, from its very nature, an intellectual and a most respectable calling: as to its being a profitable one I feel there are too many of us know otherwise, to our cost. I do not intend going into the causes and reasons why this is so in my present letter, but I am going to ask my fellow country booksellers, with a oneness of purpose, to devise some scheme to resuscitate the trade, and relieve it from the miserable position to which it has fallen. I would also ask the publishers and wholesale booksellers whether they cannot in some way aid and assist that which, unless there be something done, will shortly be one of the things which have passed away, and which must eventually materially affect their interests. Other trades can have their meetings and their discussions upon any change that affects their prospects, why cannot we? I am, &c., J. GLOBES. Learnington, Dec. 21.

To Correspondents,—B.—R. T.—C.—H. C. B.—M.-G. A. P.—M. H.—F. G.—G. M.—J. G.—T. F.—J. T. F.-P.—B. C.—received.

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EXCELSIOR BRANDY, Pale or Brown, 15s. per gallon, or 30s. per dozen.

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men, and all others, can use it during morning and afternoon,
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CTOVES for ENTRANCE HALLS, SCHOOL-ROOMS, CHURCHES, &c. of the best construction. These Stoves burn little facel, require very little attention, may be had with or without open fire, and will burn night and day in severe weather, or throughout the season, if required, whilst they are entirely free from the objection found to so many Stoves-that of a liability to become overheated and to render the atmosphere of Edward Stoves of the Control of Edward Stoves of Ed

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THE DRAWING ROOM TEA s acknowledged by all who have tried it to be wastly superior to any they ever yet met with. To be had only from 8 TER AC HAN & CO., Dealers in Fine Tes, 26, CORNHILL, opposite the Royal Exchange.

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B. REGENT-STREET, S. W. and 45. MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON: 29. COLLEGE-GREEN, DUBLIN: and at their MANUFACTORY, NEW HALL-STREET, BIRMING HAM Estimates and Drawings sent free by post. Re-plating and Gilding as usual.

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BUSINESS and MANUFACTORY is REMOVED from
Kingstreet, Bloomsbury-square, to 166, NEW BOND-STREET,
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SHAWLS.—"The recent disturbances in India appear to
have had little influence over the commerce of the interior, as
affecting the importantions of produce into this country. The
affecting the importantions of produce into this country. The
the cultivated taste of European ladies with the most gorgeous
and hasantially-wrought shawls. The sale just concluded was
one of the largest on record; and, notwithstanding a prevalent
opinion to the contrary, owing possibly to the quantity of shawls
imported, has passed off with complete success. We understand
Messra. Farmer & Rogers, of Regent-street, have, in anticipation
these purchases, in addition to thouse manyly set the sale; and
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FARMER & ROGERS, 171, 173, 175, REGENT-STREET, W. DURABILITY OF GUTTA PERCHA
Durability of Gutta Percha Tubing, the Gutta Percha Company
have pleasure in giving publicity to the Gutta Percha Company
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Fump Service, I can state, with much satisfaction, it answers
perfectly. Many builders, and other persons, have lately exfirst laying down, now several years; and I am informed that it
is to be adopted generally in the houses that are being creded
here.—N.B. From this testimonial it will be seen that the
OURKUSIVE WATER of the ISLE of WIGHT has no effect on
THE GETTA PERGUA MOMENTA. DURABILITY OF GUTTA PERCHA

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U Every one values and admires a beautiful head of hair; yet there are hundreds who desire to make their hair look well, keep it from turning grey and falling off, but are unacquainted with the means to do so. OLDRIDGE'S BALM OF COLDMBIA to them is a priceless treasure—it is the only certain remedy. Established upwards of 30 years, it has withstood every opposition and imitation, and by the increasing demand proves its true value. In producing whiskers or measurement, and proves its true value. In producing whiskers or measurement, and the content of the

MRS. JOHNSON'S AMERICAN SOOTH-MRS. JUHNSON'S AMERICAN SUOTHING SYNEIP.—This efficacious Remedy has been in genral use for upwards of Thirty Years, and has preserved numerous
Ohlidren when suffering from Convulsions arising from political
Dentition. As soon as the Syrup is rubbed on the Gatter of the Control of the Control
Dentition. As soon as the Syrup is rubbed on the Gatter of the Control
This as innocent as efficacious, tending to produce the Teeth with
case; and so pleasant, that no Child will refuse to let its Gums be
rubbed with it. Parents should be very particular to ask for
JOHNSON'S AMERICAN SUOTHING SYRUP, and to
that the Names of Barcara's Soon at the Relegie, are on the
Stamp affixed to each Bottle. Price 2s. ed. per Bottle, are on the 58

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MODERATOR LAMPS.—Works—strong, smile, and well-finished. Patterns—original, beautiful, and in pure table. Peterns—original, beautiful, and in pure table. Peterns—only she first quality.—The first of a SON, S. Ludgete-hill, E.C. Established nearly a Century

MAPPIN'S ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE and TABLE CUTLERY.

MAPPIN BROTHERS, Manifecturers by Special Appointment in the Queen, are the only Bheffield Makers who supply the Consumer in London. Their London Show Roome, of and 68, KING WILLIAM-STREET, London Bridge, contain by far the largest STOOK of ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE and TABLE CUTLERY in the World, which is transmitted direct from their Manufactory, QUEEN'S UUTLERY WORKS, SHEPFIELD.

			P	stte	m	T	hre	ad	P	tte	m			n
13 Table Forks, best	quality		£1	16	0	2	14	0	3	0	0	3	13	
13 Table Spoons	do.		1	16	. 0	2	14	0	3	0	0	3	12	-
12 Descert Forks	do.	**	1	7	0	3	0	.0	3	4	0	2	14	. 1
12 Dessert Spoons	do.	**	1	7	0	3	. 0	0	3	4	0	3	14	
12 Tea Spoons	do.		0	16	0	1	4	0	1	7	0	1	16	- 3
2 Sauce Ladles	do.		. 0	8	0	0	10	0		11	0	0	13	-
1 Gravy Spoon	do.		. 0	7	0	0	10	- 6		11	0		13	- 1
4 Salt Spoons, gilt	bowls		. 0	6	- 8	0	10	0	0	13	0	0	14	
	do.		0	1	8	0	3	- 6	0	3	0	0	3	- 1
1 Pair Sugar Tongs	do.		0	3	6	0	5	6	0	. 6	0	0	7	-
1 Pair Fish Carver			1	0	0	1	10	0	1	14	0	1	18	- 1
1 Butter Knife	do.		0	3	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	7	-
- I Soup Ladle	do.		0	19	0	0	16	0	0	17	6	1	0	-
· 6 Egg Spoons (gilt)	do.		0	10	0	0	15	0	0	18	0	1	1	1

.£10 13 10 15 16 6 17 13 6 21 4 6

2 Dozen full-size Table Knives.			ity.			ity.	Quality.			
Ivory Handles	£9	4	0	3	6	0	4	12	0	
14 Dozen full-size Cheese ditto	1	4	0	1	14	6	9	11	0	
1 Pair of regular Meat Carvers	0	7	6	0	11	0	0	15	6	
1 Pair extra-sized ditto	0	8	6	- 0	13	0	0	16	6	
1 Pair Poultry Carvers	0	7	6	- 0	11	0	0	15	6	
1 Steel for Sharpening	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	
Complete Service	£4	16	0	6	18	6	9	16	6	

Mesers, MAPPIN'S ABLE KNIVES still maintain their m

MAPPIN BROTHERS, 67 & 63, KING WILLIAM-STREET City, London; Manufactory, Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER,
-The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced more than 20
years ago by WILLIAM S. BUBTON, when PLACED by the
patent process of Messrs. Elkington & Co. is beyond all comgarison the very best article next to sterring silver; that can be
employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no
possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.
A small useful Plate Chest, containing a Set, guaranteed of first
quality for finish and durability, as follows:—

	Fiddle or Old Silver Pattern			Thread or Bruns- wick Pattern			King's Pattern			Mili- tary Pattern		
	4		a	4	8.	d.	s.		d	S.	L	d
12 Table Forks	11	18	0	1 3	8		1 3	0	9	1 3	10	0
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12 Tea Spoons	0	18	0	lī	4	0	1	10	0	1	18	0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls	0	12	0	0	15	0	0	18	0	1	1	. 0
2 Sauce Ladies	0	7	0	0	8	6	0	10	6	0	16	0
1 Gravy Spoon	0	- 8	0	0	11	0	0	13	6	0	16	. 0
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	7	- 6
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl	0	3	0	0	3	6	0	3	0	0	3	9
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs	10	3	0	1 0	3	. 9	1.9	.5	0	9	7	0
1 Pair of Fish Carvers	11	4	0	1 1	7	- 6	11	12	0	1 1	18	0
1 Butter Knife	0	.3	6	0	.5	9	10	7	0	9	8	0
1 Soup Ladle	0	4	0	0	4	9	0	5	9	0	8	6
Total	u	14	6	14	11	3	17	14	9	21	4	- 5

Any article to be had singly at the same prices. An oak chest to contain the above, and a relative number of knives, &c. &t. i.s. Tes and coffee sets, cruet and liqueur frames, waters, cande-sticks, &c. at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

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DISH COVERS and HOT-WATER DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherché patterns. Tin Dish Covers, 7s. 6d. the set of six; Block Tin, 12s. 3d. to 57s. the set of six; clessant modern patterns, 32s. 6d to 60s. 6d. the set; Britannian Metal, with or without silver plated handles, 3d. 11s. to 6d. 5a the set; Sheffield plated, 10d. to 16d. 10s. the set; Block Tin Hot-Water Dishes, with wells for grayy, 12s. to 50s.; Britannia Metal, 22s. to 77s.; Electro-plated on Nicket, Indi size, 1th 11s.

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A large variety of New and good Patterns. Best quality, superior taste, and low prices. Also, every description of Cut Table Olass, equally advantageous.

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CHRISTMAS CAKES ORNAMENTED, iz, 6d, per lb.

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PASTRY of every description, CREAMS, ICES, JELLIES,

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DR. H. JAMES, the retired Physician, dissumption, Bronchitts, Couchs, Colds, and General Debility. The remedy was discovered by him when his only child, a daugaker, was given up to die. His child was cured, and is now alive and well. Desirous of benefiting his fellow-creatores, he will send post-free, to those who wish it, the recipe, containing full directions for making and successfully using this remedy, on their remitting him six stamps.—Address O. P. Bnows, 14, Cecti-siree, Strand.

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